'Priority of PL 19-75 are retirees' PAGE 2
Last of 3 suspects gets 63-month prison term. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVI, Issue No. 253
www.saipantribune.com | WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 21, 2016 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune
75¢

MC up in arms vs sanctuary plan

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

RELATED NEWS
➤ Letter to Obama. PAGE 11

A member of local conservation group Marianas Conservation wrote an open letter yesterday to President Barack Obama to dissuade the outgoing president from designating the Mariana Trench as a marine sanctuary on top of being a national monument. Doing so effectively gives the federal government most, if not complete, jurisdiction over the Mariana Trench, which is also a part of the exclusive economic zone of the Northern Marianas.

Once the Mariana Trench is declared a marine sanctuary on top of being a marine national monument, it will require those who wish to, say, fish or mine in the area, to obtain permission from the federal government twice—one for the trench being a national monument and another

See MC on Page 4

CONCERT PREVIEW
MICHAEL T. SANTOS
Members of the *man'amko,* dressed in red and Christmas hats for the season, sing Christmas carols at Joeten Susupe on Dec. 16.

See story on Page 3

'NMI to benefit from mobile app'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Guam senator-elect William Mendiola Castro is assisting the CNMI in developing a mobile app that would make land and environmental information easily accessible, cutting the hassle and trouble of going to government agencies. Castro, who is Bureau of Statistics and Plans director in Guam, made a brief presentation yesterday on how the app works.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, press secretary and representa-

See NMI on Page 4

Move seeks to invalidate seizure of M/V *Luta*

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saying that Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto is their joint business venturer, the owners and operators of Luta Mermaid LLC, which owns M/V *Luta*, are asking the federal court to declare the vessel's arrest as invalid.

Luta Mermaid LLC, Abelina T. Mendiola, Deron T. Mendiola, and Fidel S. Mendiola III, through counsel William M. Fitzgerald, also asked the court to deny Yamamoto's

See MOVE on Page 4

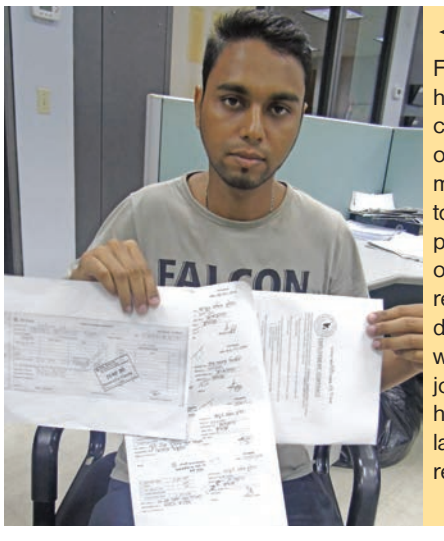
Man says he was conned by fake job offer

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Bangladeshi national who allegedly paid the equivalent of $13,530 after being promised a construction job on Saipan has remained jobless for three months now.

Speaking with the assistance of an interpreter, Farhan Ahmad, 25, told *Saipan Tribune* that he arrived on Saipan last Sept. 23 on a CW-1 permit he obtained from his supposed employer, Curtwill Corp.

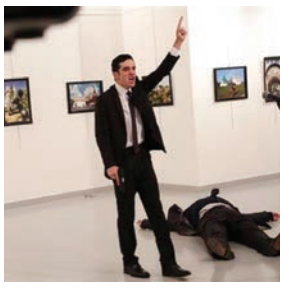
See MAN on Page 4



➤ Farhan Ahmad shows his employment contract and receipts of the Bangladesh money equivalent to $13,530 that he paid to the accounts of the father and relatives of a Bangladeshi security guard, who promised him a job on Saipan. Since his arrival on Saipan last Sept. 23, Ahmad remains jobless.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

INSIDE

LOCAL
The Marianas Tourism Education Council brings their message to GCA.
PAGE 16



WORLD
A Turkish policeman fatally shot Russia's ambassador to Turkey.
PAGE 18

LIFE & STYLE
A movie has a way of sitting up straight whenever Sigourney Weaver is in it.
PAGE 20

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

USED OFFSET AND LETTERPRESS PRINTING MACHINES AND EQUIPMENT

FOR SALE

- SPEED MASTER 102-5 COLORS
- SPEED MASTER 102-4 COLORS
- MIEHLE
- DG 75 – Continuous form
- MOZP
- GTO 52 – SINGLE COLOR
- MULTILITH
- LAWSON CUTTER
- POLAR CUTTER
- SCREEN KATANA IMAGESETTER
- ECRM STINGRAY 63Q
- SMYTH SEWING MACHINE
- HEIDELBERG FLATBED
- HEIDELBERG WINDWILL
- FOLDING MACHINE
- MULLER MARTINI
- HOT LAMINATING MACHINE
- PERFECT BINDING MACHINE
- ROTARY PERFECT BINDING MACHINE

"VARIOUS OFFICE TABLE, CHAIRS, CABINETS AND EQUIPMENT"

"AS IS", "WHERE IS" BASIS ONLY
SERIOUS INQUIRIES ONLY

Interested buyer may contact
Ariel Mariano at 233-2898 ext. 33 or
Mario Mayuga at 285-1021

WANTED

NEWS REPORTER

The *Saipan Tribune* is looking for a FULL-TIME news reporter.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Above average writing skills and can work within deadlines;
- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player;
- Computer literate;
- With photography skills;
- Must have reliable means of transportation.

If you have what it takes to be part of a dynamic team, email your résumé and samples of your work to editor@saipantribune.com. You may also drop it off at the *Saipan Tribune* office on the second floor of the JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. ON-ISLAND HIRES PREFERRED.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.
Qualified women, minorities, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Local

'Priority of PL 19-75 are retirees'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Providing a bonus for retirees this holiday season was one of the priorities of House Bill 19-212, according to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. The bill became Public Law 19-75 after Torres signed the measure on Monday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

PL 19-75 appropriates $40.97 million to various government agencies and programs. He also signed HB 19-209 that becomes PL 19-74, which gives a 5-percent salary adjustment to all civil service employees. Rep. Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan), who was present at the signing, authored both bills.

Torres said that $3.5 million would be equally distributed to all retirees or their beneficiaries, with each one expected to receive at least $1,000. He added the government has already collected the over $40.9 million allocated for the supplemental budget.

"Our retirees were not given [cost of living adjustment] or any compensation for 15 to 20 years. [The] the critical part and biggest priority of the $40 million supplemental budget—revenue that we already have—is our retirees. We have our current employees getting raises, so we also looked at how we could assist our retirees before the holidays," said Torres.

COLA, a percentage of an employee's salary, is divided into 12 months. Retirees would receive 24 paychecks for one year every the 15th and 30th day of the month.

Torres said the bonus is across the board at $1,000. "Whether you are getting $8,000 or $100,000 per annum you'll be getting $1,000 across the board. All retirees or their beneficiaries would benefit from it," he said.

He added the COLA and bonus are different. "The bonus is the same amount for everybody against your 5 percent COLA. Not only are you getting that [Monday], you don't have to worry about dividing that into 12 months."

The Public School System is getting a huge chunk of the supplemental budget ($10,241,826) while land compensation, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will receive $9 million and

See PRIORITY on Page 4

Govt agencies clean sediment chamber at Lau Lau Bay

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Several government agencies joined forces last Dec. 16 to clean out sediment chambers at Lau Lau Bay. The sediment chambers and stream crossings have been in place at the lagoon since 2010.

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Department of Public Works, and the Saipan Mayor's Office, with the assistance of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp, work together yearly to maintain the area.

"Every year, we had to partner with other government agencies to go out and do the maintenance work. Typically, it is the responsibility of the DPW to provide maintenance for these drainages and these major roads, but we also feel they are quite challenged and that they have quite a lot of stuff on their list, so BECQ coordinate every year with the mayor's office, DPW, and at one time CUC, to try and do the maintenance work at Lau Lau Bay," said BECQ administrator Frank Rabauliman.

Back in 2009, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration awarded the Division of Environmental Quality with a little less than $3 million grant, which was used to fund environmental projects such as the setting of sedimentation chambers, upgrading of roadways, and improving drainages.

Sediment chambers are special chambers that trap sediment coming from land such as mud, sand, trash, etc.

"The NOAA grant was meant to do this—to reduce sedimentation for the protection of corals. We've did a lot of both construction and re-vegetation, and even studied the health of the corals in the bay," he added.

Rabauliman shared that conserving natural resources should be a joint effort since it involves everyone.

"Even though [BECQ] puts all those protective measures, it requires maintenance, which falls on DPW. We want to continue seeing those measures be effective so that is why we came out and partnered with other government agencies," he said.

Rabauliman said he even asked government agencies that have no responsibility over the environment to assist in the maintenance effort.

"The Saipan Mayor's Office also partnered with us in many different projects. We reached out to them because we needed the manpower on this particular project and they were happy to step up," he said.

The grant came from NOAA, one of the recipients of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, signed into law by President Barack Obama.

ARRA aims to save and create jobs in response to the great recession of 2007 to 2009. NOAA's grant that was awarded to the CNMI, one of 50 recipients out of 800 applicants, was able to generate an estimated 100 jobs on Saipan along with protection of its national resources and additional security of the tourism industry by protecting an internationally renowned dive site.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The cleanup of the sediment chambers happened on Dec 16, 2016, as a collaborative work between the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, the MINA Tasi Rangers, the Saipan Mayor's Office, and Department of Public Works.

IN CASE OF 2ND BIGGEST 'ICE' HAUL IN NMI

Last of 3 suspects gets 63-month prison term

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Chen,

One of three men behind the shipment of 4.9 lbs of methamphetamine or "ice" in 2015 to the CNMI was slapped on Monday with a 63-month prison term—five years and three months.

Zhaopeng Chen was given credit for 379 days of time served. Upon completing his prison term, Chen shall be placed on supervised release of three years.

Chen, a Chinese national, will be deported from the CNMI upon his release from prison.

During his supervised release, Chen will be required to perform 50 hours of community service.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona also ordered Chen to pay $100 in special assessment fee.

Manglona determined that the sentencing guideline range was 63 months to 78 months imprisonment.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe, counsel for the U.S. government, and U.S. Probation Officer Margarita Wonenberg, both recommended a sentence of 63 months in prison, the low end of the sentencing guideline range.

Banes recommended a sentence of 51 months imprisonment.

Last Sept. 7, a federal jury rendered a unanimous guilty verdict against Chen. The jurors found him guilty of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine. That carries a maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment.

The indictment charged Chen, Shicheng Cai, and Xi Huang, all Chinese nationals, with conspiracy with the intent to distribute methamphetamine.

Cai and Huang pleaded guilty.

Last month, Cai was slapped with 51 months in prison.

Last August, the court slapped Huang, who was tagged as the leader of the group, with 15 years and eight months of imprisonment.

According to the indictment, Huang, Cai, and Chen conspired between Nov. 30 and Dec. 4, 2015, to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

Customs inspectors discovered the contraband hidden in one of nine paint buckets during a routine inspection at the seaport of a shipping container from China on Dec. 2, 2015.

Local and federal enforcers replaced the "ice" with sugar and conducted a surveillance operation that led to the arrest of Huang, Cai, and Chen on Dec. 4, 2015 near Stanford Hotel in San Vicente.

The worth of the "ice" was estimated at $850,000 at that time, making it the second largest illegal drugs haul in the CNMI history.

Man'amko sing carols at Joeten

Some of the island's *man'amko* surprised the public last Friday evening with some Christmas cheer during a caroling performance at the Susupe branch of Joeten.

"We are here to entertain the public, [as] Joeten has been very kind to the *man'amko*. This is just a small token of our appreciation and our love by singing to them," said Teresita Sorroza. "This shows what we can still do despite our age."

The group gave a small sample of what can be expected at the *man'amko*'s annual concert on Dec. 20 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. Also on scene was Office on Aging director Walter Manglona, who wanted to see how the showcase was doing as well as give his thanks to Joeten for the use of their premises.

Manglona, said, "I would like to thank Joeten for allowing our *man'amko* here and sharing the Christmas joy to the community. They've been practicing for a few weeks and just wanted to give back to the community."

Manglona was overjoyed at the positive comments he received from customers.

"It was really great! I didn't even get a chance to get in for a while because people kept stopping me just to compliment the *man'amko*'s performance," Manglona said. ***(Michael T. Santos)***

MICHAEL T. SANTOS

Dressed in red and Christmas hats for the season, some of Saipan's elderly did a caroling performance at Joeten Susupe on Dec. 16.

ARMATECH
RF Door Lock System Services & Maintenance
Tel: (670) 234-8895 • Fax: (670) 234-8894
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

Town House
FURNITURE AND APPLIANCES
CHRISTMAS SALE
4 DAY SALE ONLY! DEC 21-24

Living Room Sets

2PC Sofa Set
3+1 Seater Beige F-5942
Reg $1,995
SALE $999

3 PC Recliner
Gel Leather
R99310-51 U018 Gel Leather
Reg $2,195
SALE $1,299

RCPN 1900 Power Recliner Chair PU
Courtney 2 M5003 Grey
Reg $449
SALE $199

Novella 65" TV Cart
ZNOV-1465
Reg $1995
SALE $1299

Corner Recliner Set
98670-00 Mocha D099
Availlable in Mocha
Reg $1,895
SALE $1,099

3 PC Recliner
Fabric Champion Brown
R98240-51 Champion Brown D040
Availlable in Mocha
Reg $1,699
SALE $999

Morro Sofabed Klik Klak Felt Purple
MORO-SOFN2171
Reg $699
SALE $599

3PC Kerry SOFN-2138 Sofabed
KERR-2138
Reg $899
SALE $699

3PC Sofa Chair, Loveseat & Sofa
F3055
Reg $2,195
SALE $1,199

Jessica Coffee Table
38" Rd w/ 2 End Tables
3843-01/3843-02
Reg $499
SALE $299

3PK Calla Cocktail Set
4007SET
Reg $499
SALE $299

Dentil Coffee / End Table Set
4001SET
Reg $499
SALE $299

MORE ITEMS WITH HUGE SAVINGS NOT ADVERTISED, VISIT US NOW!
FINANCING AVAILABLE THRU EXPRESS FINANCIAL ON APPROVED CREDIT.
ALL ITEMS ARE BOX PRICE. ASSEMBLY NOT INCLUDED.
WEDNESDAY TO SATURDAY 10AM-7PM
SUNDAY 10AM-4PM • MON-TUE-CLOSED
TEL: 235-6356

MOVE

From Page 1

request to sell M/V *Luta*.

In papers filed on Monday, Fitzgerald asserted that joint ventures cannot have a valid maritime lien on a vessel in which they have an interest, as they are not strangers to the ship.

Yamamoto is suing Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog and the owners/ operators of Luta Mermaid LLC for allegedly refusing to pay back the $3.4 million that he put up for the vessel.

After Yamamoto filed the lawsuit last Oct. 25, the U.S. Marshal Service seized the ship.

Last week, Yamamoto, through counsel George Lloyd Hasselback, asked the court to have M/V *Luta* sold to prevent the ship's further deterioration and the excessive cost of keeping the vessel while his lawsuit is pending in court.

Fitzgerald said that a part-owner of a vessel cannot obtain a lien against co-owners. That means stockholders in a corporation that owns a vessel are regarded as part owners, he added.

He pointed out that Yamamoto's complaint does not cite any document that would support his position that $3.4 million that he put up were loans, rather than an investment.

Fitzgerald said this lack of documents is "all the more astonishing" since Yamamoto is a licensed tax accountant in Japan and Abelina Mendiola is a "simple housewife."

Fitzgerald cited Abelina Mendiola's declaration that the deal between them is based on a personal relationship of joint venturers who were to share any profits on a 50-50 basis.

Fitzgerald also explained that it was only when he returned to Saipan last Sunday from New York that he agreed officially to serve as counsel for the Mendiolas.

In her declaration, Abelina Mendiola, 53, said it was Yamamoto's idea to go into the shipping business on Rota as he wanted to acquire the Sunset Villa, owned by her sons.

Abelina Mendiola said that Yamamoto discussed with her husband, Fidel S. Mendiola Jr., his plan to do business on Rota, throughout all the time even up to June this year, and that they agreed that Yamamoto will finance the businesses and they would provide time and services in management, operations, and logistics.

She said they agreed that this was a 50-50 joint venture, ultimately using Luta Mermaid LLC as their vehicle.

Abelina Mendiola filed in court copies of exchange of emails between her and Yamamoto, and between Yamamoto and co-defendant Robert Toelkes, relative to their 50-50 joint venture.

NMI

From Page 1

tive-elect Ivan A. Blanco, Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Richard B. Seman, and Reps. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) and Vince F. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) were in attendance at the presentation, held at the Office of the Governor conference room.

Castro, who is a senior staff of Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo, said the same technology that they have in Guam would give CNMI citizens a chance to have the information right at their fingertips.

"The technology puts the information on the hands of the citizens. It allows people to get information on lands, environmental hazards and safety, buildings, and public safety. It is helpful especially for a private citizen who had been away for a long time and wants to get a copy of the information about lands," said Castro.

"You could look at the app and find out the property's value, and for the developer if it wants to build a multi-level structure. The mobile app should be able to tell you if there's some problems, like if it is on wetlands and you don't want to develop a property there."

He said the presentation is part of an ongoing meeting to see on how both Guam and the CNMI could share information and the things needed to set up the same app here in the Commonwealth. "So we need to see which are not yet digital and the information that already have digital copies. If you don't have [digital copies], there is greater need to digitize."

Castro, who is a former Office of Technology chief information officer in Guam, said the app decentralizes information and is more efficient. "You can access information any time of the day, from any part of the world."

He said the idea of setting up the same app in the CNMI started when he met Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Richard B. Seman in a federally funded event about fisheries in the U.S. mainland. "Secretary Seman and I agreed that we needed to work on this together. So he and Rep. [Edwin] Propst invited me."

"We love to share the technology and it all depends on what information you wanted. The app costs between $10,000 to $30,000 and this is a small investment when you talk about it. Just think about how people could get access to information and the opportunity to generate money."

MC

From Page 1

for the trench being a marine sanctuary.

John Gourley, a member of Marianas Conservation, claims in his letter to Obama that Pew, which is proposing to add the status of marine sanctuary over the trench's marine national monument status, has made "empty promises" and "orchestrated and funded the deceitful" Marianas Trench Monument campaign in 2008."

"Pew was telling us here in the Marianas that we should have a marine national monument because it is going to bring us economic benefits, it was going to be co-managed, and they basically made a lot of promises and none of them came true—it was just a series of broken promises," Gourley told *Saipan Tribune*.

Since being declared a marine national monument, permission must be granted by the federal government to do various activities, including fishing, near the Mariana Trench area. Because of this, travelers by boat have to gain permission from the federal government to travel from one island to another.

Gourley does not trust Pew since their last proposal back in 2008, which led to former President George W. Bush declaring the Mariana Trench as a marine national monument, limiting the residents of nearby islands access to open waters.

In his letter to Obama, Gourley said, "Pew has again come to the Marianas and is making the same promises they made in 2008—promises they cannot guarantee. We are being told that the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument needs yet another layer of federal bureaucracy to add to an already ineffective management system comprised of two other federal agencies.

"Mr. President, what we don't need is more federal management authorities meddling in the [marine monument]. What is needed is for us to work with the current federal management authorities and hold them to a higher standard," wrote Gourley.

Gourley shared with *Saipan Tribune* that he is skeptical about the proposal.

"Pew does not have a good track record on the Marianas. I don't particularly like Pew, and I think anything what they promote must be looked at carefully because I don't trust Pew," he said.

"I listened to [Pew's] campaign during the Humanities Half-Hour the other day and what they're saying is all nice and good, but it's what they're not saying that bothers me," he added.

Gourley questioned whether the additional bureaucratuc overlay on the Marianas Trench marine national monument is beneficial overall.

"The underlying question that should be answered by sanctuary proponents is what are the specific benefits that would be realized from a sanctuary status that currently isn't being provided through resource protection measures provided by the Marine National Monument," he said.

Gourley claims Pew wants to limit access to people in the Marianas archipelago under the pretense of conservation.

"[Pew] wants to have over half of the entire exclusive economic zone in the Marianas archipelago locked up—no mining and no fishing. This is not what they are telling people," he said.

"Some people think it's a good thing, some people think it's a bad thing. Why would you want to stop people from fishing and mining?"

MAN

From Page 1

Ahmad said his employment contract indicates that he will work as a general helper and maintenance/ construction worker at $6.05 an hour.

Ahmad said a Bangladeshi national, who acted as a "middle man," facilitated his papers and promised him a job as a waiter at a five-star hotel and that his monthly salary would gradually increase to $1,300 a month.

Saipan Tribune opted to withhold temporarily the identity of the alleged middle man as he was not available for comments as of press time.

Ahmad said the middle man told him to be patient and that he would pay him back half of the $14,175, including his expenses for the U.S. embassy, hotel, and food.

Ahmad was almost about to graduate college in Bangladesh but his parents got sick, forcing him to stop schooling. He then met a police officer in their country who referred him to the "middle man."

Ahmad said he managed to exchange phone calls and messages with the middle man, who was already working on Saipan as a security guard.

At the middle man's instructions, Ahmad made seven payments from May 26, 2015, to Aug. 31, 2016, amounting to over a million in Bangladeshi currency that he had borrowed. The amount is equivalent to $13,530 and was deposited in different accounts belonging to the middle man's father and some relatives.

When he arrived on Saipan, the middle man's relative picked Ahmad up at the airport and brought him to their house in Chalan Kanoa. He said the house has three rooms and there are four of them, including the middle man. He was given a room.

After seven days, the middle man brought him to Curtwill Corp., but the company told him that there was no job for him.

After two months, Ahmad said, he was told to get out of the room and he stayed in the kitchen. With no job and no money, Ahmad survived by eating leftover food.

Since arriving on the island, he only earned $100 by bush cutting at a house referred by a friend.

Ahmad recently met the interpreter, who then brought him to the U.S. Department of Labor office on Saipan last Dec. 6.

Ahmad said a Homeland Security agent also interviewed him last Dec. 13.

He said Karidat has been assisting him with a card that he uses to buy $50 worth of food.

Ahmad asked the U.S. and the CNMI government to help him get a job because he has to pay the loan back and that he and his family are now not safe because he complained to authorities. He was set to get his belongings from the middle man's house and move to a friend's residence last Monday.

Ahmad's CW-1 permit will expire on April 15, 2017.

PRIORITY

From Page 2

respectively.

The central government's payment to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. ($3,624,116); Fuel Adjustment Clause rate subsidy and Medical Referral Program ($2 million each); Outstanding lump sum wages of all active and inactive employees frozen at Step 12 ($1,451,365); Governor's Office Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation, and Community Guidance Center programs ($1 million), Northern Marianas College ($1 million), and Northern Marianas Trades Institute ($150,000) are the other recipients of the money.

Torres said the current business climate allowed the government to assist and fund agencies, departments, divisions, and other programs. "We are seeing a lot of good things from our partners. That's why appropriation is critical, to provide better services. This will go a long way."

"In order for our government to move forward, we need to settle past billings. We can't move forward if we don't address that. The administration is responsible to pay and settle past bills. It needs to get paid. We thank the Legislature's hard work and dedication to pass these bills."

Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog added that the administration and the Legislature—House and Senate—had to meet a number of times before the bill was crafted. "We wanted to provide them with the exact [amount] and not the anticipated resources. It takes a good working relationship with the executive and legislative branches for this to push through."

House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan), meanwhile, said addressing issues in the Commonwealth has been one of the Legislature's priorities.

"We try to address all the concerns behind a good working relationship with the House and Senate. I ask for your patience and understanding as we continue to chart the course so we could have a better Commonwealth. The best interest is to appropriate the right amount for each program or agency," Demapan added.

Senate vice president Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan) said the law was made possible after the government had collected additional funding this year. "And it addresses major obligations. The Senate, House, and administration realized that."

"And to a large extent, we are paying now those standing obligations but also looking at some of the real needs. We hope that this is only the beginning as we continue to address the needs of our community," added Palacios.

Senate floor leader Steve K. Mesngon (R-Rota), Reps. Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Joseph Leepan Guerrero (R-Saipan), Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), Glenn Maratita (R-Rota), and Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan), Cabinet secretaries Edith Deleon Guerrero (Labor), Robert Hunter (Community and Cultural Affairs), and Larrisa Larson (Finance), and Division of Customs Services director Jose C. Mafnas were present at the signing.

CUC executive director Gary Camacho and CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muna along with officials and staff of the Northern Marianas College, Northern Marianas Trades Institute, the Board of Education, and PSS also attended the event.

Man pleads guilty to burglarizing lawyer's house, stealing CUC car

Daro Reyes Cabrera, a former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew facing charges of burglarizing a lawyer's house and engaging police officers in a car chase using a stolen CUC vehicle, pleaded guilty last week.

Cabrera, 38, pleaded guilty to burglary, theft of vehicle, and criminal mischief as part of a plea deal. The offenses carry a maximum sentence of seven years in prison. He will be sentenced on April 19, 2017.

The Office of the Attorney General originally charged Cabrera with burglary, theft, theft of vehicle, resisting arrest, criminal mischief, reckless driving, and eluding police officer. The OAG later amended the charges to burglary, theft of vehicle, and criminal mischief.

Cabrera burglarized the house of attorney Bruce Berline in Puerto Rico on July 3, 2016. In addition, Cabrera stole CUC's vehicle on July 14, 2016. That same day, he damaged the CUC vehicle and a Department of Public Safety vehicle.

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit served as counsel for Cabrera. Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas represented the government. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

MHS launches anti-bullying comics

MICHAEL T. SANTOS

Marianas High School staff and students pose for a group photo holding their newly published anti-bullying comic books at the MHS campus on Dec. 16.

Marianas High School took the initiative to address bullying in schools by publishing 500 anti-bullying comic books.

Made possible by a grant from the Northern Mariana Islands Humanities Council, the comic book was inspired by the Comic Book Project, a plan to work with students from MHS to create comic books that address school bullying. All stories were conceptualized, written, and illustrated by members of the MHS Art Club.

Project director Greg Borja said, "The stories in the books addresses several bullying behaviors [that] bullies might not even realize they're doing. Sometimes a person doesn't realize a friend is bullying them or that a bully doesn't realize he or she is a bully. The first step is always awareness and this is what we're doing today."

"[The] only way to stop bullying is to have the students do it themselves to stand up and defend one another," Borja added.

Work is underway to have the comic books distributed in several schools.

MHS principal Cherlyn B. Cabrera said, "I'm so excited whenever our kids get to showcase their skills. With the books, this is very much needed since bullying is always a problem in every school. As kids try to get along and know one another, sometimes acts can be misconstrued as friendly when it's actually bullying. …To have these messages embedded in story form, that's just powerful." ***(Michael T. Santos)***

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT
Saipan
COUNTRY CLUB
The First Golf Course in Saipan!
Temporary Club house Now Open
located on Middle Rd
(next to McDonalds)
Special limited time deals for Locals
18 holes for as low as $5 a round
Monthly memberships for as low as
$100 for unlimited play
(Walk-in Only)
Christmas gift certificates available;
Brand New Club House Coming Soon.
COME PLAY TODAY!
Web site www.saipancountryclub.com
Facebook (@saipancountryclub)
Phone: (670) 234-7300

Live the Fiesta Way!
Holiday Season at Fiesta
Christmas Eve Special
World Café Restaurant
Seafood & Roast Beef Dinner Buffet
with Turkey Carving Station
December 24, 2016, Saturday
6:00pm ~ 9:30pm
$38 per adult & $19 per child 4 ~ 11 years old
Free flow of Red & White Wine & American Beer
Christmas Brunch
World Café Restaurant
December 25, 2016, Sunday
11:00am ~ 2:00pm
$38 per adult & $19 per child 4 ~ 11 years old
Free flow of Beer, Red & White Wine,
Sparkling Wine and Juice
Free Pool passes / Picture with Santa
New Year's Eve Special
World Café Restaurant
Seafood & Roast Beef Dinner Buffet
with Ham Carving Station and Special Menus
December 31, 2016, Saturday
6:00pm ~ 9:30pm
$60 per adult & $30 per child 4 ~ 11 years old
Free flow of Red & White Wine, American Beer & Soda
New Year's Countdown
with Joyful Dinner Show
"Island Style"South Beach
December 31, 2016, Saturday
6:00pm ~ 1:00am
$90 per adult & $45 per child 4 ~ 11 years old
Free flow of Red & White Wine, American Beer and Juice
Cocktail Party Only at 10pm @ $50 per adult / child
New Year's Day Brunch
World Cafe Restaurant
January 1, 2017, Sunday
11:00am ~ 2:00pm
$38 per adult & $19 per child 4 ~ 11 years old
Free flow of Sparkling Wine, Beer, Red & White Wine and Juice
Rice Pounding Ceremony
3:00pm at South Pool
Special price for CNMI Residents
For Reservations and Inquiries
Please Call 234-6414 ext. 1548 or 1544
233-6414 or 483-0462
FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

Dela Cruz, Melchor win VFW tilts

By MICHAEL T SANTOS
michael.santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jeff Melchor of Mount Carmel School topped all competitors in the Voice of Democracy's video-essay contest, while Victoria Dela Cruz of Hopwood Middle School dominated her district for the Patriot's Pen essay-writing competition.

An 8th grader, Dela Cruz even beat competitors from Guam in her division. She received a $150 for first place and another $100 for winning in her district, totaling $250.

"I thought the competition was pretty difficult but my mom really motivated me to challenge myself," Dela Cruz said.

The Voice of Democracy competition has been a premiere scholarship program of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Students compete through writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme was "The America I Believe In."

The Patriot's Pen's theme was "My Responsibility to America." Students would compete not only against other students from the Public School System, but from private schools, schools run by the U.S. Department of Defense in Japan, Guam, and Korea, American international schools in Taiwan and Thailand, as well as homeschooled children.

Mariano Fajardo, competition committee chair of VFW Post 3457, said, "The reason we do this is to allow students to express themselves about what democracy is to them."

Winners who will compete at the national level will get all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. for a chance to win $30,000 in scholarships. The national grand prize for the Patriot's Pen contest is $5,000.

Second place winner for the Patriot's Pen was Robin Alvarez from MCS, while Maria Gregoire from Saipan International School walked away with third place.

The Voice of Democracy second place winner was Amber Montegro from Marianas High School, while Diedre Rosete from MCS finished third.

All second place winners were awarded $100, while third placers received $75.

A total of 33 entries from four schools were submitted for the Patriot's Pen, while Voice of Democracy amassed 118 entries from three different schools.

VFW Post 3457 commander Michael A. O'Kelley thanked all the students who participated in the competitions. "All students who took the initiative to enter our contests should be proud of their efforts," he said.

Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen participants pose for a group photo along with school staff during the awarding ceremony held at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Office on Dec. 15.

MICHAEL T. SANTOS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Marianas-*chan* auditions

The Marianas Visitors Authority will hold open auditions on Jan. 7, 2017, on Saipan for "Marianas-chan" (Marianas child) to help promote the Northern Mariana Islands in Japan. The contest is open to U.S. citizen children ages 4-6 who reside in the CNMI. Additional details and applications are available at www.mymarianas.com, and the deadline to apply is Dec. 30, 2016. Interested contestants from Tinian and Rota are invited to submit an application with a 1-2 minute video of the contestant to info@mymarianas.com for call back to the audition. For more information, contact the MVA at 1.670.664.3200/01. ***(MVA)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting on Thursday, Dec. 22, 2016, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. To RSVP or for more information, call CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(PR)***

Air force training at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Dec. 22, from 8:30am to 10pm. The public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear of the areas during the date and times indicated. W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. All vessels are advised to remain clear of W-517 south of latitude 12° 40' 00»N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use. ***(PR)***

Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: http://opacnmi.com
1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL 2016 ELECTION CANDIDATES and POLITICAL PARTIES

According to 1 CMC § 6424, all certified candidates must file a detailed "Campaign Statement of Account". This itemized financial statement, prepared with the advice and co-signature of the candidate's treasurer, must show the specific source(s), name(s) of contributor(s), and amount(s) of contributions and expenses. The Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) is mandated by the Act to administer the filing of such Statements. Pursuant to the Act, failure to file a complete, signed, dated and verified statement by **December 28, 2016**, shall subject you to a fine of up to **$100 per day** for each day the Statement is late.

The "Campaign Statement of Account" form, suggested reports, and supporting schedules are available on OPA's website at www.opacnmi.com. Please note that filing of a "Campaign Statement of Account" form is **mandatory**.

The Act also requires that the Statement be verified under oath by the candidate/political party and the candidate's/political party's treasurer. Our office will provide free notary service to those who wish to avail themselves of this service. (Proper identification bearing both the photo and signature of the candidate and treasurer must be provided).

Notary Service Schedule:

Saipan:
Office of the Public Auditor
Monday through Friday (Except: 12/5/16 & 12/7/16)
8am to 4:30pm

Rota:
Rota Mayor's Office (Conference Room)
Monday, December 5, 2016 – 9:00am to 3:00pm

Tinian:
Department of Commerce Office
Wednesday, December 7, 2016 – 9am to 4:00pm

Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan

Joey P. San Nicolas
Mayor

Te:: (670) 433-1800/2
Fax: (670) 433-1819

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
Provision of Project Management Services for
The Office of the Mayor of Tinian & Aguiguan
RFQ17-MOT-043

Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas, through the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan, (collectively, "Municipality") are soliciting sealed proposals from Architects and Engineers to provide Project Management Services for the Renovation of the Tinian Gymnasium and other capital improvement projects as needed.

Procurement procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30.3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70-30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. Public Law 15-95 (Local Preference Act) as amended by Public Law 15-118 shall apply to this locally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor, and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Interested parties may pick up the applicable scope of work (SOW) and submittal requirements at the Tinian Liaison Office located at the **Tinian Guesthouse, Navy Hill Rd, Navy Hill, Saipan**, beginning **Wednesday, December 7, 2016**. A pre-proposal meeting will be held at Henry G. Hofschneider Conference Room, located at the Tinian Mayor's Office in San Jose Village, Tinian, at 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on Thursday, December 15, 2016.

Questions regarding this RFQ may be submitted in writing to Ms. Alexis Hofschneider at alexishofschneider@gmail.com or faxed to 433-1819 no later than **Monday, December 19, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. (ChST).**

Selected Project Managers will be retained as independent contractors under general provision of the Contracting Officer or his/her designee. Project Managers will act as agents of the expenditure authority on projects to ensure that identified objectives are achieved within cost, time and legal requirements while maintaining effective stakeholder communications. Selected Project Managers will be retained of a six (6) month contract with an option to renew for an additional six (6) months at the discretion of the Municipality. Project Managers include Architects, Civil, Mechanical, and Electrical Engineers.

Compensation for Project Management services will be determined based on the number of assigned projects including payments for approved staff and expenses. The Municipality will negotiate with the selected Project Managers to determine the scope of work and responsibilities. Individuals or firms selected as Project Managers would be precluded from providing any other services associated with the assigned project(s).

To qualify, firms must have a valid CNMI Business License, be currently licensed to practice engineering in the CNMI, and must hold a Certificate of Authorization, if applicable.

Statements of qualifications may be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330, or the latest version of Standard Forms. Only professionally licensed firms with a valid CNMI business license will be considered. Statement of Qualifications will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualification of Firm and/or Personnel – 40%
2. Experience in Project Management – 30%
3. Work Load – 15%
4. Experience with Tinian Mayor's Office Projects – 15%
5. Fee Estimate on a Per Hourly Rate – 0%

Fee estimates will assist the Municipality with budgeting purposes only. Fee estimates will not be a part of the evaluation criteria.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three (3) ranked firms or with all the firms. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The selected firm will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with NMIAC Section 70-30.3-245 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Qualifications statements must be sealed and marked **"RFQ17-MOT-043", Project Management Services for the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the qualifications statement must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP, no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on Tuesday, December 27, 2016**.

Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST), on Tuesday, December 27, 2016, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com.

For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed qualifications statement must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **Tuesday, December 27, 2016** and the proposal documents must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **Tuesday, January 3, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Municipality reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

Joey P. San Nicolas
Mayor of Tinian & Aguiguan

Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

OAG offers 'Consumer Caution' column

The Office of the Attorney General announced yesterday the roll out of an innovative education program called "Consumer Caution Corner." This program will promote a safer marketplace by providing a weekly publication that seeks to educate and enable both consumers and businesses with the "know-how" to identify scams.

"Each week, the 'Consumer Caution Corner' publication will address a wide range of issues that affect every person in our community, ranging from how to avoid identity theft to specific consumer guides that warn consumers about how to protect themselves from unfair trade practices and marketplace schemes," said Attorney General Edward Manibusan.

In addition, the Office of the Attorney General will be offering free hard copies of the subjects addressed in these weekly articles, courtesy of the Federal Trade Commission, which focuses on protecting consumers and businesses at the federal level.

"In acknowledging and appreciating our vibrant and diverse community, we have successfully requested and received every FTC publication offered in multiple languages in efforts to best accommodate and protect consumers," added Manibusan.

Consumer Protection Complaint forms and hard copies of these publications can be picked up at the Office of the Attorney General on Capital Hill. If you have any questions or concerns about your rights as a consumer or your obligations as a business under the CNMI Consumer Protection Act, contact the consumer counsel by email at michaelcyganek@cnmioag.org. ***(OAG)***

Saipan, Tinian sobriety checkpoints

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting sobriety checkpoints on Saipan on Dec. 24.

The first checkpoint is from 8pm to 10pm, along Beach Road Chalan Lau Lau to Beach Road Chalan Piao. The second checkpoint is from 11pm to 1am along Chalan Pale Arnold, Puerto Rico to Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Lau Lau;

Each checkpoint will last 75 minutes or 1 hour and 15 minutes. Checkpoints will be terminated when it rains.

Tinian sobriety checkpoints

Tinian's Traffic Section will be conducting DUI/sobriety checkpoints on the dates and time listed below:

■ Thursday, Dec. 22, 2016, 8pm to 9:15pm: North and southbound lane on Broadway Road between Tinian Hardware and Natibu Park.

■ Thursday, Dec. 22, 2016, 6pm to 7:15pm: West and eastbound lane on Suzuran Street between Natibu Park and Senior Citizen Center in San Jose Village.

■ Friday, Dec. 23, 2016, 6:30pm to 7:45pm: West and eastbound lane on Grand Street between JJ Mart and Department of Commerce.

■ Friday, Dec. 23, 2016, 8pm to 9:15pm: West and eastbound lane on Canal Street between Queen's and Tinian Hardware.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes). Checkpoints are subject to be terminated if it begins to rain. This activity is part of the department's effort to deter, detect and apprehend impaired drivers and to ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected.

In addition, traffic officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions and laser (speed detection) enforcement. ***(DPS)***

EOC warns of life-threatening rip currents

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, fresh to strong trade winds and combined seas of 10 to 12 feet will produce hazardous conditions for operators of small craft the next few days.

A high surf advisory remains in effect until 6pm Thursday. For east facing reefs, surf will be hazardous at 10 to 14 feet through today, Wednesday. Surf will decrease slightly but remain hazardous through tomorrow, Thursday.

For north facing reefs, surf will be hazardous at 8 to 10 feet through today. Surf begins to subside this afternoon but will remain hazardous through Thursday.

A small craft advisory remains in effect until 6pm Thursday.

Fresh to strong trade winds and combined seas of 10 to 12 feet will produce hazardous conditions for operators of small craft the next few days.

The EOC is advising the public and inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, to avoid sailing in these conditions. Avoid venturing near reefs along exposed beaches, especially those facing north and east. Rip currents will be life-threatening. ***(EOC)***

MISS MARIANAS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Stellar Marianas beauty queens join the Marianas Visitors Authority's Christmas in the Marianas parade last Saturday. Miss Marianas Peachy Quitugua and Miss Teen Marianas Palanga Taimanao of Rota waved to the crowd, sharing the holiday cheer with the island community. Stellar Marianas, in collaboration with MVA, continues to make the promotion of the CNMI locally and internationally top priority. In 2017, both Miss Marianas and Miss Teen Marianas will implement their platforms as beauty queens. Quitugua will focus on mental and physical health and education of female adolescents, while Taimanao will design and create a garden of local medicinal herbs.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM, DR-4235-MP
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Caller Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel.: (670) 664-2375
Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION FOR BID

Supply and Installation of Typhoon Shutters - Rota Municipality Government Buildings
ITB17-GOV-048

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the CNMI Hazard Mitigation Grant Program are soliciting sealed bids for the supply and installation of typhoon shutters at various government buildings on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available December 15, 2016 at the CIP Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A $50.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference followed by site visitation on Rota for this project on January 6, 2017, 10:00 a.m. ChST at the Rota Mayor's Office conference room. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Leona DLG. Sablan in writing by e-mail: leona.cip@gmail.com, on or before January 11, 2017 to the CIP Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked ITB17-GOV-048 Supply and Installation of Typhoon Shutters- Rota Municipality Government Buildings. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than 9:00 a.m. ChST, January 20, 2017. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 9:00 a.m. ChST, January 20, 2017 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 20, 2017 and the bid documents must be received no later than January 31, 2017. Failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at 10:00 a.m. ChST, February 1, 2017. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at 10:00 a.m. ChST January 20, 2017.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:
a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:
1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 120 calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

Herman S. Sablan, Director
CNMI Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION TO BID
CUC-ITB-17-015

SALE AND REMOVAL OF SCRAP MATERIALS FROM THE WAREHOUSE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is inviting interested individuals and firms to bid on CUC Scrap materials located in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained at no charge upon registration at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and One (1) copy must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-ITB-17-015, CUC Sale & Removal of Scrap Materials from the Warehouse"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 17, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Bidders must sign a Waiver of Liability, removing CUC's liability from claims resulting from violations relating to the removal and disposal of the scrap materials. CUC shall transfer and assign the scrap materials to the prospective bidder in an "As is, Where is" condition. By accepting the transfer and assignment, the bidder acknowledges that CUC has made no representation or warranties of the merchantability, quality, fitness, and condition of the scrap materials.

The scrap materials may be inspected by appointment only, between the hours of 9:00 AM thru 3:00 PM Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, by contacting CUC Warehouse Division at telephone no. 322-6585.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the CUC.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 9, 2017, to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Technician for Procurement via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Community gathers Christmas toys for children in Guam

DEDEDO, Guam—More children in Guam will have smiling faces this holiday season because of toys donated by local communities to the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.

Maj. Chris Merrill, Toys for Tots coordinator with Marine Corps Activity Guam, expressed his appreciation to the people and organizations who volunteered to make this year's campaign an outstanding success. "The generous, heartfelt support of our community makes the Toys for Tots program one of the most successful community events in the area."

His sentiments were echoed by assistant coordinator, Gunnery Sgt. Donald McClester. "Support from the community is the biggest part of this program. Because of community involvement, lots of children will have a better Christmas this year."

Now on its eighth year on the island, and thanks in large part to the Guam Chamber of Commerce, the Toys for Tots Program has gained the support of dozens of area retailers, architectural firms, public schools, real estate firms, automobile dealers, banks, restaurants, civic organizations and numerous members of the general public.

The Chamber also organized the Toys for Tots kick-off event on Sept. 28 and financed the Toys for Tots High School Challenge designed to encourage participation with cash prizes to the top three schools that collected the most toys per capita.

Iconic toy retailer Toys "R" Us, located in Micronesia Mall, was the largest single contributor to the program this year.

The Veterans of Guam Motorcycle Club and the United Service Organization's commitment to support island communities also led to shopping sprees and the collection of hundreds of toys for the children of Guam.

Some businesses contributed to the campaign through services as well. The KUAM CareForce began collecting toys from the first week of the drive, but also helped the Marines advertise their efforts by means of a public service announcement aired throughout the studio's programing schedule.

Matson shipping also provided services by transporting thousands of toys from Marine Corps Activity Guam to the Salvation Army and to Catholic Social Services on Dec. 15. Finally, Micronesian Air Cargo Services shipped a portion of the toys collected to Tinian where the Tinian Youth Athletes Club will present them in a holiday ceremony on Dec 23.

"Guam is a great place to live," said McClester, "Seeing how people pull together to help each other out makes me proud to be part of this community. I look forward to seeing how we do next year for the program."

Individuals in need of toys this year are urged to contact the Barrigada Salvation Army at (671) 477-9873 or the Catholic Social Services at 671-635-1441.

To see some of the individual contributors to this year's campaign visit the Marine Corps Activity Guam Facebook site at https://www.facebook.com/USMCGuam. ***(PR)***

US MARINE CORPS PHOTO BY CPL. JACOB SNOUFFER

U.S. Marine Corps GySgt. Donald McClester and Sgt. Tony Moses meet with the students at George Washington High School to collect toys for the 2016 Toys for Tots High School Challenge. The Toys for Tots High School Challenge is an annual event, coordinated by the Guam Chamber of Commerce, to see which high school donates the most toys.

US MARINE CORPS PHOTO BY CPL. JACOB SNOUFFER

U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Moses conducted a final pickup at The Law office of John Richard Bordallo Bell for the 2016 Toys for Tots toy drive. The Toys for Tots toy fundraise has allowed the Marines to collect and distribute the toys to families in need on the island of Guam and Tinian.

US MARINE CORPS PHOTO BY GYSGT. JUSTIN PARK

Guam—U.S. Marine Corps GySgt. Donald McClester conducted a final pickup at GuamTemps for the 2016 Toys for Tots drive. The Toys for Tots fundraiser has allowed the Marines to collect and distribute the toys to families in need on the island of Guam and Tinian.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP17-DPL-049

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 03, 2017 **TIME: 10:00A.M.**

"TO COMPLETE A CNMI COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC LAND USE PLAN UPDATE FOR ROTA, TINIAN, SAIPAN, AND THE NORTHERN ISLANDS, A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED ON JANUARY 11, 2017 AT 10:00AM, LOCAL TIME AT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS, 2ND FLOOR JOETEN DANDAN COMMERCIAL BUILDING, SAIPAN. ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING BY EMAIL TO MARIANNE CONCEPCION TEREGEYO, SECRETARY OF DPL, AT mariannet@dpl.gov.mp NO LATER THAN 4:30P.M. LOCAL TIME, JANUARY 18, 2017.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS (CNMI-PR) ARE APPLICABLE TO THIS PROCUREMENT, AND ALSO THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **MARIANNE CONCEPCION-TEREGEYO**
SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-DCRM-060

SUBMISSION DATE: January 11, 2017 **TIME: 10:00A.M.**

"PURCHASE OF A HP DESIGN JET Z6200 PHOTO PRODUCTION PRINTER FOR THE DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED A THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTERST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB17-DCRM-061

SUBMISSION DATE: January 11, 2017 **TIME: 10:30 A.M.**

"PURCHASE OF DIGITAL COLOR COPIER, NETWORK PRINTER, SCANNER (W/COLOR SENDING), I-FAX FOR THE DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED A THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTERST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP17-BECQ-054

SUBMISSION: JANUARY 6. 2017 **TIME 10:00 A.M.**

"INSTALLATION OF A TELEPHONE SYSTEM FOR OFFICE TELECOMMUNICATION OPERATION FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY"

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **DECEMBER 7, 2016** FROM THE BECQ OFFICE OR BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO **jessetenorio@becq.gov.mp.** **QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE E-MAILED TO jessetenorio@becq.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSNESS, **DECEMBER 23, 2016.**

THE PROVISION OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT AND REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP17-BECQ/DCRM-050

SUBMISSION: JANUARY 6. 2017 **TIME 10:00 A.M.**

"CUBICLE WORKSTATIONS/PARTITIONS & OFFICE FURNITURE/FIXTURES & MOBILE RACK SYSTEM FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY – DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **DECEMBER 7, 2016** FROM THE BECQ OFFICE OR BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO **janicecastro@becq.gov.mp.** QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE E-MAILED TO janicecastro@becq.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSNESS, **DECEMBER 23, 2016.**

THE PROVISION OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT AND REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT

/S/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

Pangelinan named Young Professional of the Year

The Saipan Young Professionals Committee has named Janel V. Pangelinan of Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. as the 2016 Saipan Young Professional of the Year.

The announcement was made at the SYP's "Seas'n Greetings" Christmas party held on Thursday, Dec. 15, at the Barefoot Beach Bar of Kanoa Resort.

Pangelinan

SYP recognized Pangelinan's outstanding leadership and dedication to serving the community both personally and professionally.

Pangelinan is mother of four. While attending the Northern Marianas College from 2009 to 2011, she was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. The following semester, she was sworn in as an officer. For the duration of her studies at NMC, she worked at the Adult Basic Education department as a tutor. In 2011, she became part of Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. She started as an underwriter, became head of the broker department, and assisted with marketing and networking. In addition, she has conducted presentations for many government agencies introducing their health insurance plan, as well as career presentations and class observations in relation to the insurance industry.

Pangelinan is currently a claims examiner at Pacifica Insurance. She is a co-chair of the Events Committee of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Marianas Professionals Organization. She also participates in various volunteer efforts and programs with her employer.

SYP also honored other outstanding members: Zachariah Johnson (PSS), Kristal Johnson (PSS), Emanuel Borja (Hofschneider Engineering), and Jacqueline Fujihira (Imperial Pacific).

The 2016 Saipan Young Professional Rookie of the Year award went to N15 Architects' Lester John Babauta, who joined the committee early this year.

SYP mentors Donna Krum (Friends First Marketing/ Paradise Dental Center), Tyrell Pauling (Hyatt Regency Saipan), and Beau Tomokane (Delta Air Lines), were also recognized with a certificate of appreciation from SYP.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Saipan Young Professionals Committee presents certificates of recognition to Zach Johnson, left, and Kristal Johnson.

"Throughout the year, the Saipan Young Professionals have made efforts to create and build relationship with our Chamber members. We have had the privilege of working with our mentors and appreciate them for lending their expertise and resources to advance our organization," said one SYP member.

Paradise Dental Center as well as Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. were also recognized for hosting the SYP networking events. The Committee encourages young professionals to join.

The SYP "Seas'n Greetings" party featured fun games, entertainment, raffle prize drawings and the announcement of the 2016 Saipan Young Professional Awards. The Committee also teamed up with Karidat Social Services, donating toys for their "Toys 4 Tots" drive. Their donation will be made to the organization within this week.

SYP thanks its donors: Let's Go Tours, Pena House, Tribe Marianas, 670 Rocksteady Shop, Coral Ocean Point, Oleai Beach Bar, Java Joes, KFS, Swirls, Paradise Dental Center, Kanoa Resort, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Shirley's Coffee Shop, and The Shack.

For more information on the Committee, visit their Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/spy96950 or contact the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at 234-7150. ***(SYP)***

NMIS wins awards at Christmas in the Marianas

The Northern Marianas International School has successfully defended their title in the caroling competition Middle School Division and went home with the most number of awards during the awards night of the 15th Annual Christmas in the Marianas at the Paseo de Marianas last Saturday. The elementary students also won sixth place for the same contest.

NMIS' entry for the Christmas tree placed second out of 17 private and public schools on Saipan. Ornaments were made from old Christmas balls and used CDs. Their theme was "Merry Christmas Marianas and Be Drug Free." This is the third time since NMIS joined the competition to win a major price; they grabbed second place in 2014, first place in 2015, and second place this year.

This year also marked the first time for the school to win second place in the Christmas float competition. NMIS' float was themed "Misa de Gallo" and the design was a church made from the used water bottles, CDs and food containers.

This is the second year for NMIS to win major awards at this event. The whole community of NMIS would like to thank the teachers, staff, students, and parents for their untiring support. Proceeds will be used for the improvement of the school and students' competition. ***(PR)***

Northern Marianas International School students, teachers, staff during the awards night at the Paseo de Marianas

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eighth Notes Music School hosts Dec. recital

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eighth Notes Music School holds a recital-concert last Dec. 3, 2016, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Eighth Notes Music School held another successful recital-concert last Dec. 3, 2016, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Led by music teacher Ryan Isidro, about 60 multi-talented students showcased their talents using various instruments like piano, guitar, ukulele and drums. Sam Balicha did master of ceremony duties.

The program was divided into two batches—the 2:30pm show and the 5pm show.

Parents and friends who witnessed the show were amazed with the outcome. One parent said they need this kind of event in the island.

Students who played piano were Kali Berkland, Sofia Cariaso, Sunjae Kim, Jennifer Hart, Emma Tenorio, Emma Sablan, Giana Lang, Arielle Matutino, Piper Raho, Jack Raho, Tristan Raho, Bernard Sabino, Rafael Busby, Ana Villagomez, Nieves Villagomez, Susana Villagomez, Nancy Capati, James Reyes, Joy Yan, Caleb Yan, Adonna Matutino, Sari Barman, Ethan De Belen, Hannah Gabaldon, Jana Agbuya, Jamie Agbuya, Jordan Sigua, Keisha Morales, Seth Balakrishna, Steven Balakrishna, Henry Xue, William Xue, Ashlynn Han, Mayan Taylor, Frank Tang, Andrie Molinyawe, Haley Sangalang, Angela Barbo.

The guitar players were Richard Villagomez, Bernice Sabino, Irin Chung, Serin Chung, James Reyes, Jeff Consignado, Jimin Ahn, Yumin Ahn, Sumin Ahn, Conrad Bao, Joshua Tenorio, Zlata Vekhova, Adonna Matutino, and Lawrence Tubera. The bass player was Prince Manalo.

The drummers were Geoff Castro and Joshua Yoo, Angel Manalo, Justin Mateo, Matt Moran, Elijah De Belen, Christian Morales, Shuman Barman, Alex Kim, and Justin Tubera

Serin Chung, Irin Chung, Giana Lang also played the ukulele.

The Eighth Notes Music School is located on Middle Road in Garapan. It is on the second floor of Tun Kiku's Building and offers music instruction in piano, guitar, bass, ukulele, and drums. For more information, please call 483-8588. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVI, Issue No. 253

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The Grinch who stole Venezuela's Christmas

Venezuela's nadir keeps finding a new low. The country's currency, the bolivar, has lost so much of its value that storekeepers have started weighing bolivar notes instead of counting them. Everyday living is all about lines—long, desperate lines for food, medical supplies, toilet paper and a host of other staples that have been scarce for months or years. Increasingly, Venezuelans are giving up and fleeing—by plane, on foot, or even on perilous boat rides that conjure up bygone images of Cubans escaping Castro.

Now, as Venezuela nears the holidays, President Nicolas Maduro thinks he has found the right salve for all this misery. Toys. Some 3.8 million of them.

Maduro's government has seized the toys from a distributor he claims hoarded them in a scheme to claim a shortage and foist higher prices on an unsuspecting public. A couple of company executives have been arrested. And now, Maduro, riding in on a white horse ... wait, make that a sleigh pulled by reindeer ... will oversee the distribution of 3.8 million toys to Venezuelan girls and boys. "Our boys and girls are sacred," an official with the country's consumer protection agency said on Twitter. "We will not let them be robbed of Christmas."

Never mind that starving Venezuelan families would rather see bread, meat, flour, cooking oil and medicine come down their chimneys this Christmas. The confiscation smacks of grandstanding by a socialist regime that has wrecked the economy and is now looking for scapegoats—and an image makeover.

But if Maduro thinks the ploy will convince Venezuelans he's less Grinch and more Kris Kringle, he's probably going to be disappointed. What he's doing is seizing private property so that he can boost his standing with Venezuelans. Hard to imagine Venezuelans will fall for it, especially when they're seething about another head-scratching idea he recently inflicted on the public.

Maduro, a Hugo Chavez lackey who rose to power with Chavez's death in 2013, declared earlier this month that Venezuela's largest bank note, the 100-bolivar note, would cease as legal tender. The government said hyperinflation rendered worthless that denomination, which equals roughly two cents on unofficial exchange rates widely used in the country. But money that would serve as a replacement—500-, 1,000- and 20,000-bolivar notes—hasn't been made available to the public yet.

When Maduro gave Venezuelans 72 hours to turn in their 100-bolivar notes, they jammed into banks across the country to deposit the 100-bolivar bills into their accounts as credit. More than a third of them don't have bank accounts and are stuck trying to exchange the soon-to-be-expired money for 10-bolivar notes, which are still in circulation. In the midst of protests and looting sparked by the cash shortage, Maduro has extended the deadline for phasing out the 100-bolivar notes to Jan. 2. In the meantime, with Christmas around the corner, Venezuela is cash-starved. Hardly the holiday spirit, President Maduro.

See THE GRINCH on Next Page

Dear Santa,
Please don't believe any of that stuff about me being naughty...it's FAKE NEWS!!!
CLACK CLACK CLACK
KOTERBA
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

The tragic, unsurprising fall of Aleppo

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com*

The slaughter of civilians in Aleppo last week may have shocked the conscience of the world, but no one should have been surprised. Syria's Assad regime has always treated opponents savagely, and its assault on Aleppo, once the country's largest city, has been coming for a long time.

When Secretary of State John F. Kerry and U.N. Ambassador Samantha Power pleaded with Assad to observe the niceties of civilized warfare, they knew their words would likely have little impact.

"What has happened already in Aleppo is unconscionable," Kerry said. "The Assad regime is actually carrying out nothing short of a massacre."

"Are you truly incapable of shame?" Power asked the Syrians and their allies. "Is there no act of barbarism against civilians, no execution of a child that gets under your skin?"

But their anguish was real—in part because both Kerry and Power have long urged President Obama to intervene more forcefully in Syria, only to be rebuffed again and again.

The U.S. inability to stave off the fall of Aleppo was the tragic but predictable product of a mismatch between Obama's rhetoric and his commitments.

Soon after the uprising against Assad began in 2011, Obama declared the United States on the side of the rebels and announced that the dictator's days were numbered.

The president never backed up those words with action, though, because he believed there was no compelling U.S. interest that justified direct intervention in the civil war. He insisted that there was no military solution to the conflict, and dispatched Kerry to seek ceasefires and peace talks.

Assad and his allies in Russia and Iran decided, to the contrary, that there was a military solution—and, so far, they are turning out to be right.

The winners are the Assad regime, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard and Lebanese Hezbollah who supplied many of the ground troops, and Russia, which provided air power and special operations forces.

The city was the last major stronghold of the moderate rebels whom the United States had been supporting. Their defeat sends many of their surviving fighters into territory controlled by the more radical Conquest Front, Al Qaeda's affiliate in Syria.

The battle in Aleppo also took Syrian troops away from the eastern front where they've been sporadically fighting Islamic State, allowing that group to reconquer Palmyra.

So the fall of Aleppo is not only a humanitarian disaster; it's a setback for hard-nosed U.S. interests, too.

In Obama's defense, it's true that there were never easy, cost-free alternatives to his policy of restraint. But it's not true, as he also argued, that the only alternative was a full-scale U.S. invasion.

Obama aides spent years proposing less-costly alternatives, only to be turned down.

In 2012, then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta proposed arming moderate rebels who were already receiving aid from other Arab countries, but Obama rejected the idea.

In 2013, after Assad used chemical weapons against civilians, Obama announced that he would retaliate with U.S. military force—but had second thoughts.

In 2014, after Assad began dropping crude barrel bombs into rebel-held neighborhoods, aides proposed supplying anti-aircraft weapons to the insurgents, but they were denied.

Instead, in a half-measure, the United States sent anti-tank missiles, which helped the rebels win a series of victories on the ground and brought the war to an apparent stalemate in 2015.

At that point, though, Russia's Vladimir Putin intervened, surprising the White House by sending air force units to back up Assad's troops.

"The Russian intervention shut the door on U.S. action to protect civilians," said Frederic C. Hof of the Atlantic Council, a former State Department expert on Syria. "The administration worried that any military action would risk a conflict with Russia."

Meanwhile, Kerry doggedly negotiated a series of ceasefire agreements, none of which took hold. Although the Russians played along, they never restrained the Syrian military or its Iranian and Lebanese allies on the ground.

The Obama administration didn't start the Syrian rebellion and doesn't bear sole responsibility for the disasters that followed. The Assad regime and its allies, after all, are the ones who battered Aleppo with pitiless force.

But officials acknowledge privately that Syria has been the greatest foreign policy failure of their eight years in office.

With only a month remaining in Obama's term, there's little more for them to do but continue pleading for an orderly evacuation of Aleppo—and to prepare their briefings for President-elect Trump.

Trump has suggested he might try to end the Syrian war by allying with Russia and leaving Assad in place. His national security advisor, Michael T. Flynn, has said he also wants to reduce Iran's influence.

"Good luck," said Hof. "We're still coming at this from the sidelines, without much leverage to get what we want. That's been the problem all along."

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Bespiran Noche Buena

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Desde tutuhun atbientu, sige preparasion para bespiran noche buena (Misan Gayu). Manhanau hit dispues para i gima` Yuus mañaunau kumonduse halum finattun kompleaños Niño Jesus gi selebrasion eukaristia. Ma`ug na tradision natibu!

`An ta repasa fina`pus mafañagun i Niño, na` piniti tutuhoña sa` gi un` establon (liyañg ga`ga) `nai mafañagu. Finagcha`e didog na tiempun maneñgeheñg.

Mafuñg maigoña `nai sige pution siha gi lañget manhanau antes de chagchag oga`an. Ma`lag todu i tanu ya tat ti tumuñgu` na mafañagu i lahen Yuus!

Halum liyañg ga`ga ti modetnu na hospitat `nai mafañagugue`. Halum pesebre ni mahafye sakati ti guaguan na kuna `nai mana` asun. Un` piadsun sabanas tumampe gi didog na maneñgheñg pueñge.

Dispues man-mattu ginen i chagu` bisita siha para u fan man-adora kontodu i Tres Reyes. Sumen metgut na mensahe oppan gi enteru elmundu pot mafañagun ayu na patgon.

I minagof korason-ta mau`udai gi hilu` libre na esperansa ni mattu giya hita ginen bendisioña. Maseha namagof na okasion, gaige gi "silensiun pueñge" `nai katma yan ma`lag i señgosoñg iya Bilen. Tula noche man-ina i luserun sankattan. Guiya i pution sino kandet linala espirituat!

Maseha sumen popble na patgon, pot finatoña na mabendise esperansa yan mina`añau gi tautau siha. Hana`e hit rininueba gi metgut na esperansa para ta`lun kumasa pinetsigen ha`anita.

Repara sa` ha aksepta makondena yan mapunu` gi kilu`us sin umisau pot para u rikohe todus para i papa` taihinekog na rainoña. I finapos i Saina-ta!

Enfin, prepara hamyu ya ta abiba kompleaños mafañaguña desde bespiran Noche Buena. Felis Noche Buena para todus guine na Pueñgen Yuus!

**Dinaña`:** Antes, mandaña` i familia dispues de Misan Gayu man-amotsa agradesiyun na finatinas nana para i ma`gas na okasion. Bendision dos saina, mantension, dispues de mas ma`gas na bendision ginen i Niño. Este na dinaña` sumimientu ma`ug yan hihot n inaiguaiyan familia.

Manhanau hit manmanñgiñge` gi as guelu yan guela-ta. Mas motmut bendision antes de fina` amotsan taloane sino sena. Sige mangrasiosu na estoria siha manmachalapun gi entalu` familia. Dinaña` yan bendision motmut guine na okasion. Guaha siha tinilaika gi karerata mona lau i mafa` tradision familia ti mamagtus na talin pogsi`.

**Manñgiñge` Niño:** Sumen namagof filan famaguon ni tumatiyi i Niño para i gima` siha gi señgsoñg. Gaige tinatitiyi ni kantot mañgakanta sunidun Noche Buena.

Dispues, man-adiseha hit felisitasion gi fitmi na inagu`ot kanai. Estague` humulus mas inafamauleg unu yan otru gi halum komunida. Ma-establesi inapinitiyi.

Lastima i hagas mapraktika na kanastran boñelus dagu gi menan gima`ta. Hasan esta kinisechan dagu mina` maliñgu este na kustumbre.

Mutuñg: Kumuentos un` saianties na guaha ayu ha` bisioña i umemutuñg gi asuntun linahyan. Era tiha repara na matabira i direksion mañglu ya ginen papapa`. Ayu na esta ti mutuñg ha ñgiñgiñge` sa` uttimoña ha payuni i machalapun na mutuñg. Esta paupau pa`gu gaige gi puntan guieñgña.

I asuntu ni masusesedi gi oriya ti mutuñg lau nahuñg na paguan para un` pinañgun ya un` eñgulu` haf` guaha na pau imbeninau oriyan gima`mu. Yangin matai ga`ga` pues siempre ensegidas unna` gasgas pot no u lamug.

Muñga na estake ha biragueˋ i mañglu` ya ginen papapa` `nai para un` ensinahyau muna`gasgas sa` atrasau. Haf` mohon `migu?

Dispressiu: Mattu gi madispressia usun niyug, mantikan ga`ga`, asiga, katnen agaga` tat kumu guaka. Taya` baba yangin siña un` limitti kuantu un` kakanu` gi sentada. Na setbi medianu na medida sa` libre hau kumanu` todu i yamu. Midision i areglu gi todu sentada.

Kasi pot tatnai ta estudiaye kuantu minagahetña i infotmasion ni manmalapbla hit na mampus man-espantau. I tatautau-ta ha nesessita asiga (iodine), alimientun katne (protein), mantika yan fina` lañan niyug para u siña umareglan maisague` atmas tatautau-ta. Hahassu na medianu i dinanche na midision.

I kompanian amut chumoneg este siha na dispressu pot para u famatinas biyon pot biyon pesus na ganansia. Dios mihu na finababa gi tautau. Dispues de todu machoneg na amot mas hit man-malañgu!

Medianu: Sessu gi alacha man-mafuegu hit na baba asiga, mantikan ga`ga`, niyug, yan asukat. Enfin, yangin man-baba este siha na produktu haf` sige ha` man-maprodusi yan bendi gi tenda siha?

Taya` baba yangin otdinariamente ta benefisia gi hilu` medianu. Kumeke ileghu muñga magulusuni sino ambentuyi! Todu mampus ti mauleg yan dañosu!

Dispues: `An magpu` todu felisitasion Añu Nuebu manokakat hit para i monedan familia para ta kesañg kuantu na dañu guaha. Taya` guaha sa` tiempun ha`anen gupot gi finattun i Niño.

Ta tutuhun ta`lu regulat na obligasion familia siha estake tumalag halum ta`lu i tradision-ta gi uttimun i sakan. Mana`lu hit tatte gi moseria mientras sige hit manmagap ni tirun felisitasion. Kulan hinanau ha`ane gi kinahulu` yan minachum atdau.

Diniseha: Guaha gi entre hita mangai familia gi chagu`. Huñgan mafattu mahalañg-ta nu siha guine na tiempu. Gi hilu` tinayuyot tana`e siha namagof na felisitasion gi pueñgen Noche Buena. Tradision tanu` inadiseha dinuebu piot gi bespiran Añu Nuebu!

Hana` banidodosu-yu` i minesñgun tautau-ta siha `nai manadiseha felisitasion gi magof na matan niha. Mañan natibu maseha ñgai`an!

Regalu: Kada huli`e regalun famaguon hu hassu i finenina yan uttimu na nina`en regalu ginen i sinantusan na nanahu: un` meyas apaka` ni gai estreyas atiluñg yan agaga`. Pot guiya na esta pa`gu hu u`usa meyas apaka` dihemunos kau fotmat i okasion.

Megai gi mancha-idat-hu chumagi regalun ginen i Red Cross antes gi todu famaguon eskuela. Ayu segundu na regalu rinisibi-hu. Desde ayu, tatnai hu attendi pot asuntun regalu sa` memegaiña `nai taya`! Dispues inipus este na kustumbre ha bogbug famaguon-ta ginen i espirituat na signifikasion este na selebrasion.

■■■

Gi todu animu-ta, mauleg tana` fan pasensia hit taiguihe lancheru ni numañga finattun fruta ginen i eda` `nai inichane i tanu`.

THE GRINCH

From Page 10

Venezuela's best hope is a referendum that would oust Maduro from power. The opposition, which controls parliament, was on its way to gathering the necessary signatures to force a referendum, but the Maduro-controlled elections commission suspended the collection of signatures.

If Maduro can delay the recall vote a few more weeks, his government could survive. The country's next regular presidential election is in 2018. If a recall vote led to his ouster before mid-January 2017, an election would be held to fill the position. If he were recalled after that deadline, the current vice president—a Maduro loyalist—would complete the term.

But Maduro and his team have made a mess of a country that once lapped up the benefits of its oil riches. Violence and bloodshed are spreading in the streets, and bound to get worse.

Maduro can begin putting his country on a path toward recovery with a gift Venezuelans would welcome—his acquiescence to a recall referendum, and ultimately, the voice and will of his people.

(c) 2016 *Chicago Tribune*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letter to Obama

Hafa Adai Mr. President: We extend our warmest greetings from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the territory of Guam. As conservation minded individuals who live in the Marianas archipelago, we are respectfully writing you to express our concern with the ongoing environmental campaign that would overlay a marine sanctuary status on the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument.

Designation of the [marine monument] was controversial in 2008 and remains so even today. Under the pretense of conservation, U.S. mainland politics took away our access and extraction rights over vast areas of the ocean that have traditionally been used (or could be used) by Mariana communities for thousands of years. This was accomplished via the Antiquities Act, a 110- year old federal law that has nothing to do with marine conservation or fisheries management. Nowhere else is this approach to marine resource management more insensitive to local culture and traditions than in the Western Pacific. We relive this controversy every time a community member must seek written permission from the federal government, in the form of a permit, to travel or fish in ancestral waters.

Pew orchestrated and funded the deceitful Marianas Trench monument campaign in 2008. The Pew monument plan was rejected by CNMI and Guam elected leaders, island residents, as well as other leaders in the Micronesian region. The current MTMNM is the end result of local input from CNMI island leaders who designed the monument to be more in harmony with Pacific island culture. It stands unique among all the other numerous marine national monuments in the Western Pacific.

As per Presidential Order 8335, the MTMNM is co-managed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Almost immediately after the monument was designated, USFWS seized sole management authority over the trench and volcanic units by incorporating them into the National Wildlife Refuge System. Despite the constant assurances from Pew and the CEQ chairman for a *meaningful* co-management role by the CNMI government, the promise never materialized.

Pew has again come to the Marianas and is making the same promises they made in 2008—promises they cannot guarantee. We are being told that the MTMNM needs yet another layer of federal bureaucracy to add to an already ineffective management system comprised of two other federal agencies. Mr. President, what we don't need is more federal management authorities meddling in the MTMNM. What is needed is for us to work with the current federal management authorities and to hold them to a higher standard.

This letter was prompted by a prolonged and growing frustration among Mariana Island communities over the arrogant posturing by Pew in Mariana Island affairs. The ongoing campaign for a sanctuary overlay on the MTMNM is being managed by Pew and typical of their modus operandi, community residents were completely left out of initial discussions and are being told only part of the story. Their lack of integrity shines through when they requested you to "…forgo the usual sanctuary process and direct the Secretary of Commerce to begin a sanctuary designation process immediately in the Northern Mariana Islands." Marianas Conservation does not support short-cutting the marine sanctuary process and we wish to inform you that Pew and the Friends of the Mariana Trench do not necessarily represent the people of the Marianas. All the documentation presented to you concerning a sanctuary designation has been carefully crafted by Pew to make it look like the sanctuary process has broad political and grassroots support—it doesn't.

On behalf of the island communities in Guam and the CNMI who believe in the sustainable use of our marine resources, please do not initiate the sanctuary process for the MTMNM. Let us address the MTMNM shortfalls on our own with the existing federal management authorities. As always, we sincerely appreciate you taking the time to hear our own concerns and wish you luck in your future endeavors.

John Gourley
john.e.gourley@gmail.com
Marianas Conservation

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and breezy. East winds 20 to 25 mph.
▲88° ▼79°

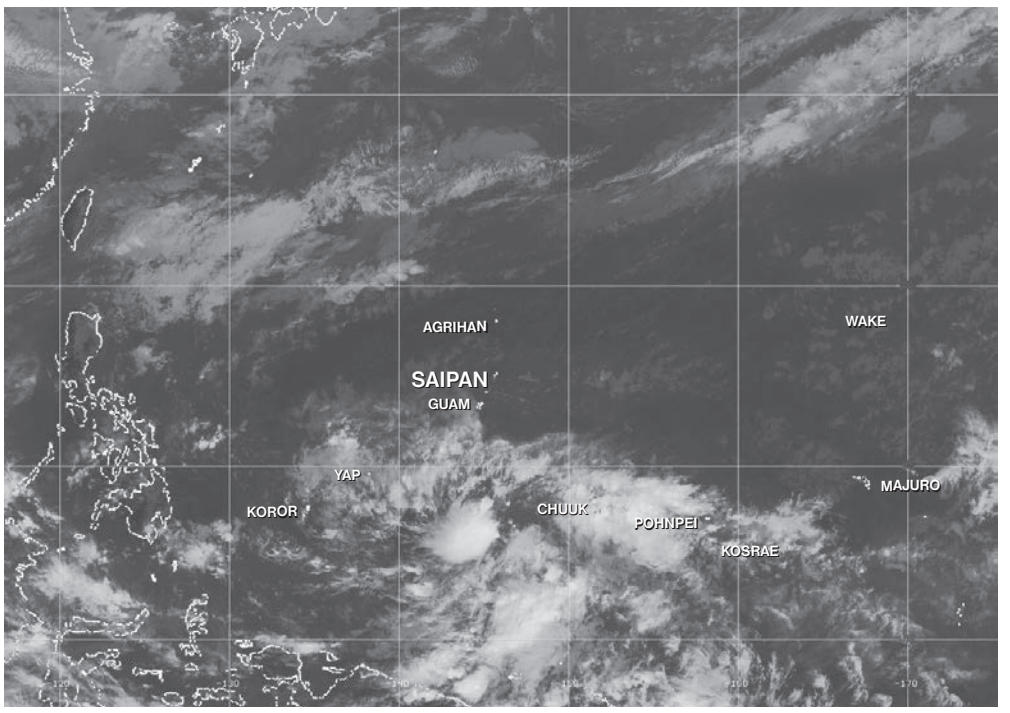
THURSDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and breezy. East winds 15 to 25 mph.
▲88° ▼79°

FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°

SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°

SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:41 AM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Northeast trade-winds and isolated showers prevail across the local area this morning. Breezy conditions will prevail across the Marianas through much of the coming week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▼ ▲
Guam and Rota	Afternoon clouds	80 / 87 °F
Palau	Mostly cloudy	79 / 87 °F
Yap	Morning clouds	80 / 86 °F
Chuuk	Mostly cloudy	80 / 86 °F
Pohnpei	Morning clouds	80 / 83 °F
Kosrae	High level clouds	81 / 85 °F
Majuro	Afternoon clouds	81 / 84 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▼ ▲
Auckland	Partly cloudy	56 / 73 °F
Beijing	Partly cloudy	32 / 42 °F
Hong Kong	Morning clouds	69 / 76 °F
Honolulu	Mostly sunny	73 / 80 °F
London	Afternoon clouds	42 / 52 °F
Los Angeles	Mostly sunny	52 / 75 °F
Manila	Afternoon clouds	76 / 86 °F
Melbourne	Morning clouds	52 / 65 °F
Miami	Partly sunny	72 / 78 °F
New York	Mostly sunny	31 / 44 °F
Osaka	Scattered clouds	41 / 61 °F
Paris	Afternoon clouds	33 / 42 °F
Pusan	Mostly cloudy	51 / 58 °F
Rome	Partly cloudy	43 / 62 °F
Salem	Sunny	30 / 41 °F
San Francisco	Mostly sunny	46 / 59 °F
Seoul	Mostly cloudy	32 / 49 °F
Tokyo	High level clouds	42 / 58 °F
Washington, DC	Partly sunny	27 / 47 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
12:24 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.37 Feet
7:05 AM	LOW TIDE	0.38 Feet
2:00 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.87 Feet
8:48 PM	LOW TIDE	0.73 Feet

	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Wednesday	6:38 AM	5:52 PM
Thursday	6:39 AM	5:52 PM
Friday	6:39 AM	5:53 PM
Saturday	6:40 AM	5:53 PM
Sunday	6:40 AM	5:54 PM

	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Wednesday	-	12:21 PM	-
Thursday	12:42 AM	1:00 PM	-
Friday	1:29 AM	1:38 PM	-
Saturday	2:16 AM	2:17 PM	-
Sunday	3:04 AM	2:57 PM	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 5, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	7, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Customers First TRIPLE J

TRUCKLOAD SALE

GREAT DEALS ON CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR EVERYONE!

Merry Christmas

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS HOURS

OPEN WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY/FRIDAY 11AM TO 7PM
SATURDAY 9AM TO 4PM [THIS WEEK ONLY]

VIZIO 32" LED SMART TV — $259.95

VIZIO 55" LED SMART TV — $699.95

$499.95 — VIZIO 48" LED SMART TV

DAHDOUL 18PC PRINTED BATHROOM SET — $17.95

SIMMONS GRIFFIN CHOCOLATE SOFA — $459.95

ESSENTIAL HOME 3-DRAWER STORAGE CART

$5.95 — EXTRA BASS STEREO HEADPHONES

$24.95

$189.95 — AVISTA 48" WIDE TV STAND

$159.95 — QUEEN SIZE MATTRESS

$6.95 — ESSENTIAL HOME 18"X20" KITCHEN RUG

$39.95 — ESSENTIAL HOME 14PC COOKWARE SET

$129.95 — QUEEN SIZE BASE

HERCULES PORTABLE BUTANE GAS BBQ GRILL

$49.95 — RIVAL 0.7 CU.FT. MICROWAVE

$89.95 — 24" KID'S BICYCLE NTB2616

$31.95

$159.95 — 26" ADULT BICYCLE NTB265

Customers First FIVE STAR WHOLESALE FOODS SAIPAN TRIPLE J

Come and visit us at the Triple J Wholesale Store
We reserve the right to limit quantity purchases on all items.

For more info, please call: 322-0430

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Customers First TRIPLE J

AMAZING DEALS ON DAILY ESSENTIALS, QUALITY BRANDS AND MUST-HAVE ELECTRONICS!

TRUCKLOAD STORE direct from KMART

STORE HOURS: WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY/FRIDAY 11AM TO 7PM • SATURDAY 9AM TO 4PM [THIS WEEK ONLY]

KENMORE 18CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR $699.95

KENMORE 7CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER $419.95

KENMORE 5,000 BTU WINDOW A/C $169.95

KENMORE 16" STAND FAN $26.95

PRIMO TOP LOAD H&C WATER DISPENSER $169.95

PRIMO BOTTOM LOAD WATER DISPENSER $209.95

BBQ PRO DELUXE CHARCOAL GRILL $139.95

COLEMAN 16QT 22 CANS EXCURSION COOLER $19.95

COLEMAN 56QT 60 CANS WHEELED COOLER $42.95

OSTER 10 SPEED GLASS JAR BLENDER $34.95

GIBSON 3.5QT ALUMINUM SAUTE PAN W/LID $21.95

HERCULES GLASS TOP DOUBLE BURNER GAS STOVE $49.95

HERCULES PORTABLE GAS STOVE $13.95

MR. COFFEE 12 CUP PROGRAMABLE COFFEEMAKER $39.95

3-IN-1 CAN OPENER $12.95

BRENTWOOD 3.1QT STAND MIXER $35.95

GIBSON HOLLOWAY 20PC DINNERWARE SET $29.95

BLACK & DECKER 6-CUP RICE COOKER $24.95

GIBSON - 8PC NESTING BOWL SET, MULTI-COLOR $21.95

GIBSON-GH TRILLIUM PLUS 24PC FLATWARE SET $10.95

HEFTY 34QT STORAGE SOLUTIONS $10.95

HEFTY 15QT STORAGE SOLUTIONS $5.95

ESSENTIAL HOME SYDNEY 5PC DINING SET $279.95

HONG MA BEER TABLE $69.95

HONG MA FOLDING CHAIR $15.95

DAILE PROFESSIONAL ACTIVE SPEAKER $59.95

BRENTWOOD STEAM IRON NON-STICK SOLEPLATE $12.95

TAYLOR DIGITAL BATH SCALE $25.95

CURTIS DVD PLAYER $31.95

CONAIR TURBO STYLER HAIR DRYER $24.95

WAHL CHROME PRO 25PC HAIR CLIPPER KIT $39.95

CRAFTSMAN STAINLESS STEEL 5GAL VACUUM $65.95

CRAFTSMAN 2.5GAL WET/DRY VACUUM $35.95

ACDELCO 2 TON TROLLEY JACK $49.95

CRAFTSMAN 12AMP CIRCULAR SAW $59.95

CONTEC 6 OUTLET SURGE PROTECTOR $2.95

PULSAR 1,200W PEAK RATED 2-STROKE GENERATOR $169.95

PLUS START 150 AMP BATTERY BOOSTER CABLE $8.95

WEIDER 365 BENCH 80LB VINYL SET $129.95

WESLO CARDIO STRIDE MANUAL TREADMILL $149.95

25% OFF TOYS

50% OFF CHRISTMAS TREES AND DECORS

PILOT HAWAIIAN SEAT COVER, BLACK $11.95

$2.95 ESSENTIAL HOME 6.5QT OMNI BOX

$13.95 IRON MAN SPIN MOP

STACK ON 10GUN SECURITY CABINET $139.95

ESSENTIAL HOME 2.0 BUSHEL LAUNDRY BASKET $11.95

DIAMOND BRAID MULTI PURPOSE ROPE 100FT $7.95

WELCOME DOORMAT BLACK 45X75CM $2.95

$79.95 Z SHADE 10X10 INSTANT CANOPY

NORTHWEST TERRITORY LIGHTWEIGHT SPORTS CHAIR $10.95

EVEREST PADDED MESH STRAPS BACKPACK $8.95

$21.95 EVEREST LIGHT WEIGHT DAYPACK

LUGGAGE SOFT CASE 20" $35.95

DHP FOLDING GUEST BED $139.95

ESSENTIAL HOME CRUZ FUTON $149.95

6 DRAWER PLASTIC DRAWER $85.95

ESSENTIAL HOME BELMONT 4 DRAWER CHEST $69.95

1800 SERIES 4PC SHEET SET QUEEN SIZE $18.95

PRESTIGE QUEEN SIZE 7PC COMFORTER SET $49.95

3PC EMBROIDERY BEDSPREAD QUEEN SIZE $35.95

JOE BOXER PILLOW STANDARD SIZE $5.95

TOWEL 26X26CM 10CT $3.95

DAHDOUL-27X54 BATH TOWEL $4.95

SLEEPING BAG $9.95

CAMPING TENT CAMOUFLAGE PRINT 20X20X140CM $14.95

NORTHWEST TERRITORY 9X6 SHELTER CANOPY $25.95

GROVEPARK 6 PLAY SWING SET $189.95

RAMALLAH 5FTX6FT AREA RUGS $39.95

FIVE STAR WHOLESALE FOODS SAIPAN

Come and visit us at the Triple J Wholesale Store

We reserve the right to limit quantity purchases on all items.

For more info, please call: 322-0430

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

MTEC talks architecture with GCA students

The Marianas Tourism Education Council and Marianas Visitors Authority recently brought their tourism message to Grace Christian Academy, highlighting career opportunities in architecture and design in the industry.

The tourism education team was joined by Fred Camacho, project manager/office manager of N15 Architecture Company, Inc., who was eager to share his experiences with the students.

"I have been able to be a part of a number of exciting projects, including the 880 duty-free in Kanoa Resort, the Marianas Business Plaza solar panel project, and the Club C project in Kanoa Resort," said Camacho. "Our firm strives to meet the needs of our clients while working to ensure that our projects do not have an adverse effect on the environment and community."

Following Camacho's presentation, several students volunteered to draw their own building plans during the seminar, including homes, hotels, and other facilities.

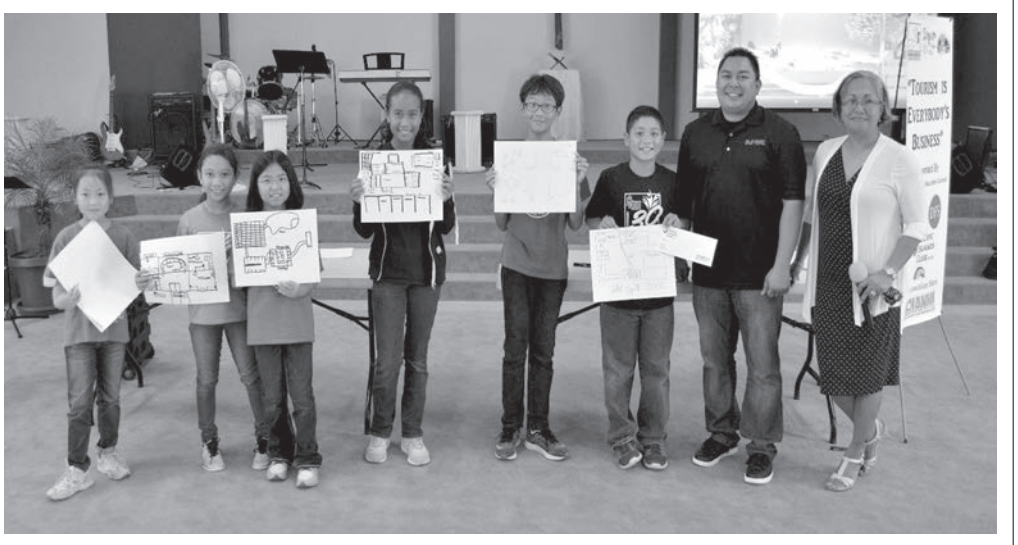
MTEC also shared about the types of visitors the NMI receives, the benefits of tourism, careers in the industry, and what students can do to support tourism at a young age. MTEC will continue its school presentations in the spring.

In the meantime, MTEC is gearing up for its annual MTEC Tourism Summit slated for Jan. 24, 2016, where MY WAVE (Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) Club members will explore aspects of the tourism industry more in-depth.

Schools interested in starting a MY WAVE Club may contact MVA Community Projects specialist Ryan Calvo at rcalvo@mymarianas.com or MVA Community Projects assistant Jennalyd Babauta at jbabauta@mymarianas.com or 670.664.3210 for more information. ***(MVA)***

Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects assistant Jennalyd Babauta distributes Saipan-da backpacks as quiz prizes during the presentation of the Marianas Tourism Education Council at Grace Christian Academy on Nov. 18, 2016. MVA

Project/office manager Fred Camacho of N15 Architecture Co. looks at the design drawings of students of Grace Christian Academy during the presentation of the Marianas Tourism Education Council on Nov. 18, 2016. MVA



Students of Grace Christian Academy display their designs during the presentation of the Marianas Tourism Education Council at the school on Nov. 18, 2016. Also pictured are project/office manager Fred Camacho of N15 Architecture Co., second from right, and MTEC chair Vicky Benavente, right. MVA

MTEC Tourism Summit on Jan. 26, 2017

'Discover My Marianas'

The Marianas Tourism Education Council will hold its annual MTEC Tourism Summit for CNMI Public School System students on Jan. 26, 2017, at Fiesta Resort & Spa. The summit is expected to gather 300 MY WAVE Club members to learn more about tourism, with special emphasis on discovering more about the special qualities that make their Marianas home attractive to visitors.

This year's summit theme is "Discover My Marianas" and will feature remarks by TripAdvisor head of Destination Marketing APAC Sarah Mathews.

Mathews, together with her team of four, is responsible for leading TripAdvisor's efforts and initiatives in collaborating with and providing support to tourism boards across Asia Pacific as well as developing strategies that will drive awareness for each destination. Her insights into the regional travel industry has made her a consistent figure in trade shows and conferences where she shares case studies and best practices of key industry players. Born and raised in Hong Kong, Sarah is proficient in Chinese and has spent most of her life living in Hong Kong, Beijing, and Australia, allowing her to have an in-depth understanding of the region's cultural needs and sensitivities.

Mathews is also part of the executive board of Pacific Asia Travel Association, currently holding the position of vice chairman.

"All the speakers at the tourism summit are going to share their knowledge about destination marketing with the students," said MTEC chair Vicky Benavente. "The MTEC board continues to educate our youth about their role in our tourism industry and how they can help promote the beauty and uniqueness of our islands as a destination for visitors."

TripAdvisor head of Destination Marketing APAC Sarah Mathews will speak at the Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism Summit on Jan. 26, 2016, on Saipan. MVA

The summit is also sponsored by T Galleria, Pacific Trading Co, and Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The following offices and organizations will also provide hands-on demonstrations at breakout stations during the summit: Marianas Visitors Authority, Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture, Coastal Resources Management, National Park Service, Historic Preservation Office, Northern Marianas Diving Operators Association, and the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

MTEC/MVA will be contacting schools with MY WAVE Clubs shortly to advise how students may register for the tourism summit. Seating is limited and will be coordinated by the MVA. For more information, contact MVA Community Projects specialist Ryan Calvo at rcalvo@mymarianas.com or MVA Community Projects assistant Jennalyd Babauta at jbabauta@mymarianas.com or 664-3200/3201.

MTEC was formed in 2002 to heighten the community's awareness of the importance of tourism to the wellbeing of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. MTEC's stated mission is three-fold: to foster community understanding and support of the visitor industry; educate the general public, especially school students, about the value, social benefits, and economic contributions made to the community by the visitor industry; and to instill, improve and promote the "Hafa Adai-Tirow" hospitality spirit throughout the island community. ***(MTEC)***

Fiji tilapia farmers attend aquaculture course in Thailand

BANGKOK, Thailand— Five Fijian tilapia farmers recently attended a course on aquaculture at the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, Thailand.

The two-week course (Dec. 5-16) provided participants with hands-on training on how to set up and run tilapia hatcheries and grow-out farms.

The five participants were selected to attend the training by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community through the Increasing Agricultural Commodities Trade project, a project funded by the European Union, which supports Fiji's recovery from Tropical Cyclone Winston.

The EU ambassador to the Pacific, Andrew Jacobs, said: ''The Winston recovery process is an opportunity to evaluate key supply chain vulnerabilities in view of climate-related disasters, such as cyclones. For the Fijian tilapia industry, securing the local supply of tilapia fry remains an important priority. This very practical training will increase resilience by promoting the secure and responsive local supply of fry."

There are currently around 300 active tilapia farms in Fiji, many of which were damaged by Tropical Cyclone Winston.

To assist with the recovery, the project is upskilling lead tilapia farmers with the aim to help them open their own private tilapia hatcheries. Expanding the number of hatcheries within the private sector will give tilapia farmers access to top quality tilapia fry and fingerlings.

"There is a need for more private hatcheries, which will not only help the individual commercial farmer to reliably expand their production volume, but it will also reduce the risk to supply from cyclone damage by the geographical spread of the nurseries," Pacific Community deputy director-general (Suva) Dr. Audrey Aumua said.

Aquaculture is fast becoming an important component of food security and livelihood.

Strengthening the supply of tilapia fry, which forms the foundation of the tilapia industry within Fiji, creates a sustainable future for aquaculture farmers. ***(SPC)***

Business

Why a stronger US dollar could hinder Trump's economic plans

WASHINGTON (AP)—President-elect Donald Trump's ambitious plans to revive exports, return jobs to the United States and increase oil drilling are running up against a home-grown threat:

The surging U.S. dollar.

Since the Nov. 8 election, the dollar has shot up 5 percent. An index that tracks the dollar against other major currencies reached a 14-year high after the election before dipping a bit since then.

In part, the dollar's gain reflects the U.S. economy's strength and investor confidence that Trump will accelerate growth by slashing taxes and pumping money into roads, bridges and other infrastructure. The dollar could rise even more now that the Federal Reserve has raised interest rates and foresees three more hikes next year. With rates far lower elsewhere in the world, many investors will shift money to the United States to capitalize on higher yields—a shift that could send the dollar even higher.

Which creates a problem: An expensive dollar makes U.S. goods costlier overseas—and imports cheaper in the U.S. That's a recipe for more pain for American manufacturers. A high dollar can also lead some U.S. multinational companies to move operations to countries where their dollars go further.

And a high-priced dollar tends to shrink oil prices, thereby discouraging the increased energy production that Trump has made a centerpiece of his economic plans.

"A strong dollar will make it more challenging to boost the international competitiveness of U.S. manufacturing, bring back jobs and increase exports," says Eswar Prasad, professor of trade policy at Cornell University.

Even before the election, a comparatively strong dollar had slowed U.S. exports for much of the past two years. Exports of goods and services had peaked in October 2014 at $200 billion. The figure fell to $179 billion in March before recovering slightly as the dollar weakened. But then the dollar marched back up and accelerated after Trump's victory. It was no surprise when U.S. exports fell nearly 2 percent in October, according to the Commerce Department.

Medicare outpatients risk higher bills for some procedures

WASHINGTON (AP)—You pay less for outpatient treatment than for a hospital admission, right? Not necessarily in the topsy-turvy world of Medicare billing, according to a government report.

People entitled to benefits under Medicare who had heart stents inserted as outpatients faced hospital bills that were $645 higher on average than those who had the same kind of procedure as inpatients, the Health and Human Services inspector general has found. Stents are tiny mesh cages that prop open narrow or weakened arteries. They usually are inserted through a tube that's threaded through an artery in either the groin or the arm.

The beneficiary's share of costs averaged $1,667 for an outpatient stent, compared with $1,022 for an inpatient stent, the report found. Investigators looked at hospital billing for 2013-2014.

In a formal response to the report that was released Monday, Medicare said it has taken steps to protect people from such disparities.

Nonetheless, the inspector general is recommending that Medicare take another look at how its billing rules distinguish between inpatient and outpatient hospital stays. Overall, there's a gray area between short inpatient stays and long outpatient stays, a problem that the agency has been working on for years, with mixed results.

Not only do hospital billing decisions affect how much people pay for a procedure, they can also determine whether patients get Medicare coverage for inpatient rehabilitation. Generally, Medicare beneficiaries must stay in a hospital for at least three nights to qualify for inpatient rehab coverage. The report says Medicare should consider also counting the length of time someone spends as an outpatient.

"An increased number of beneficiaries in outpatient stays pay more and have limited access to (inpatient rehab) services than they would as inpatients," the report concluded.

"Medicare—and beneficiaries—may be paying differently for similar care," investigators added.

Yellen to college grads: Best job market in nearly a decade

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said Monday that college graduates are entering the strongest job market the country has seen in nearly a decade, and their degree is more important than ever.

Yellen said that with changes in the job market such as technology and globalization, succeeding in the job market is increasingly tied to higher education.

"Those with a college degree are more likely to find a job, keep a job, have higher job satisfaction and earn a higher salary," Yellen said in remarks at commencement ceremonies at the University of Baltimore.

She said that annual earnings for college graduates last year were on average 70 percent higher than those with only a high school diploma. Back in 1980 that difference was only 20 percent, she said.

Yellen

Yellen said the increasing demand for people with college and graduate degrees reflected the need for higher technological skills and the impact of globalization, which allows goods and services to be produced anywhere. She said those trends were likely to continue.

"Success will continue to be tied to education, in part because a good education enhances one's ability to adapt to a changing economy," she said.

In her remarks, Yellen did not make any comments about Fed interest-rate policies. The Fed last week boosted its benchmark rate by a quarter-point. It was the first increase in a year. In making the announcement, the Fed projected that it would move rates up another three times in 2017.

Yellen said that in addition to the improvement in the unemployment rate, which in November fell to a nine-year low of 4.6 percent, there have been recent signs that wage growth is picking up.

But Yellen noted that challenges remain.

"The economy is growing more slowly than in past recoveries and productivity growth, which is a major influence on wages, has been disappointing," she told the graduates.

Nation

D. Trump cruises to Electoral College victory despite protests

WASHINGTON (AP)—There were many protesters but few faithless electors as Donald Trump won the Electoral College vote Monday—ensuring he will become America's 45th president.

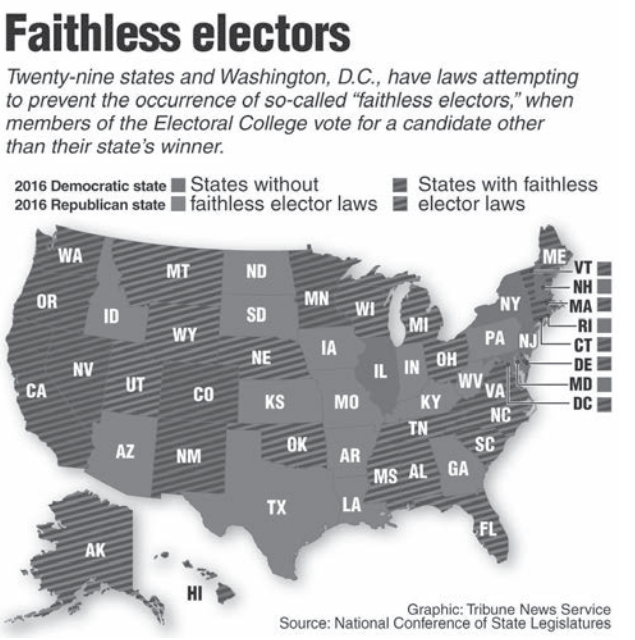
An effort by anti-Trump forces to persuade Republican electors to abandon the president-elect came to practically nothing and the process unfolded largely according to its traditions. Trump's polarizing victory Nov. 8 and the fact Democrat Hillary Clinton had won the national popular vote had stirred an intense lobbying effort, but to no avail.

"We did it!" Trump tweeted Monday evening. "Thank you to all of my great supporters, we just officially won the election (despite all of the distorted and inaccurate media)."

He later issued a statement saying: "With this historic step we can look forward to the bright future ahead. I will work hard to unite our country and be the President of all Americans."

Even one of Trump's fiercest Republican rivals, Ohio Gov. John Kasich, said it was time to get behind the president-elect.

"We want unity, we want love," Kasich said as Ohio's electors voted to back Trump at a statehouse ceremony. Kasich refused to endorse or even vote for Trump in the election.



Cities, counties plan immigrant legal aid after Trump's win

CHICAGO (AP)—Major U.S. cities and counties are beefing up legal services for immigrants to help them fight deportation and avoid fraudulent lawyers in the wake of Donald Trump's election and his hard-line immigration enforcement promises.

Tapping local government funds to represent immigrants in federal proceedings provides an early example of the type of pushback the Republican incoming president will receive in Democratic strongholds. Advocates call it a matter of justice and smart economics, but some question whether it's a fair use of taxpayer money.

Chicago has approved a $1.3 million legal fund. Los Angeles elected officials said Monday they are working with private foundations to set up a $10 million fund, while some California state lawmakers have proposed spending tens of millions of dollars to provide lawyers to immigrants facing deportation. New York is mulling a public-private legal fund, building on New York City's public defender program that's considered a national model.

"We need to be able to stand by people who are fearful," Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, a former White House chief of staff, said after the measure passed the City Council last week.

Trump's pledges to build a border wall and deport the estimated 11 million people living in the country without legal permission have triggered uncertainty in immigrant circles. He has since scaled back the deportee number, but not detailed his platform.

ACROSS THE NATION

Mayor: New Orleans settles police shooting suits for $13.3M

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The mayor of New Orleans announced Monday that the city has reached settlements totaling $13.3 million in lawsuits over deadly police shootings after Hurricane Katrina and a fatal beating just before the 2005 storm, and he apologized to the victims' families on behalf of the city. "I am hoping that in some sense the strength of these families will help the city find peace in our future," Mayor Mitch Landrieu said at an afternoon news conference after a private prayer service attended by some relatives of the victims. Landrieu said the settlements with 17 plaintiffs end all civil litigation involving those cases. It took more than 11 years because criminal cases had to be dealt with first, he said. Sherrel Johnson, the mother of 17-year-old James Brissette, who died in the Sept. 4, 2005, shootings on the Danziger Bridge, was among the victims' relatives on hand for Landrieu's announcement. She said she "wholeheartedly" accepts his apology.

McCain blasts Navy warships in report on Pentagon waste

WASHINGTON (AP)—The chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee is blasting the Navy's expensive new warships that have been plagued by engine problems and have yet to demonstrate key warfighting functions. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., a Navy fighter pilot in the Vietnam War, said the $12.4 billion spent for 26 littoral combat ships is the most egregious example of what he calls "America's Most Wasted: Indefensible," the latest in a series of reports on wasteful spending by the Pentagon. In a report Monday, McCain calls the littoral ship program "an unfortunate and classic example" of defense acquisition gone awry." Initially expected to cost $220 million per ship and be able to counteract mines by 2008, the program's cost has more than doubled to $478 million per ship, and mine countermeasures are not expected to be operational until 2020.

Asia

China disputes US claim it's top source of synthetic drugs

BEIJING (AP)—U.S. assertions that China is the top source of the synthetic opioids that have killed thousands of drug users in the U.S. and Canada are unsubstantiated, Chinese officials told the Associated Press.

Both the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy point to China as North America's main source of fentanyl, related drugs and the chemicals used to make them.

Such statements "lack the support of sufficient numbers of actual, confirmed cases," China's National Narcotics Control Commission told DEA's Beijing field office in a fax dated Friday.

In its letter to the DEA, which the commission also sent to AP, Chinese officials urged the U.S. to provide more evidence about China's role as a source country.

It's a point the state-run China Daily newspaper drove home publicly in an article this month stating that made-in-China carfentanil was not the cause of overdose deaths in the U.S.

DEA officials said their casework and investigations consistently lead back to China. DEA data also shows that when China regulates synthetic drugs, U.S. seizures plunge.

"China is not the only source of the problem, but they are the dominant source for fentanyls along with precursor chemicals and pill presses that are being exported from China to the U.S., Canada and Mexico," said Russell Baer, a DEA special agent in Washington.

Beijing is concerned enough about international perceptions of China's role in the opioid trade that after AP published investigations highlighting the easy availability of fentanyls online from Chinese suppliers, the narcotics commission made a rare invitation to a team of AP journalists to discuss the issue at the powerful Ministry of Public Security, a leafy complex just off Tiananmen Square at the historic and political heart of Beijing. They also provided responses, in writing, to AP's questions.

U.S.-China cooperation is essential for mounting an effective global response to an epidemic of opioid abuse that has killed more than 300,000 Americans since 2000. The presence of fentanyl, a prescription painkiller up to 50 times stronger than heroin, and related compounds in the U.S. drug supply began to rise in 2013, after dealers learned they could multiply profits by cutting the potent chemicals into heroin, cocaine and counterfeit prescription pills.

Even as the U.S. Congress considers legislation that would punish opioid source countries, no government agency has produced comprehensive data on seizures of fentanyl-related substances by country of origin.

MH370 officials: Crash site could be north of search area

SYDNEY (AP)—A team of international investigators hunting for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 said Tuesday it has concluded the plane is unlikely to be found in a stretch of the Indian Ocean search crews have been combing for two years, and may instead have crashed in an area farther to the north.

The conclusion raises the prospect that the search for the Boeing 777 could continue well beyond next month, when crews are expected to finish their deep sea sonar hunt of the current search zone west of Australia.

The latest analysis of the plane's whereabouts comes in a report from the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, which is leading the search for the aircraft. The report is the result of a November meeting of international and Australian experts who re-examined all the data used to narrow down the search area for the Boeing 777, which vanished during a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, 2014, with 239 people on board.

In the years since the plane disappeared, experts have analyzed a series of exchanges between the aircraft and a satellite to estimate a probable crash site along what's known as the seventh arc—a vast arc of ocean that runs through the southern hemisphere. A deep sea search of a 120,000-square kilometer (46,000-square mile) stretch of water along the seventh arc has so far come up empty.

In November, the experts went back over the satellite data, along with the results of a new ocean drift analysis of the more than 20 items of debris likely to have come from the plane that have washed ashore on beaches throughout the Indian Ocean. The analysis, which looked at where the items washed ashore and when, suggested the debris originated in an area farther north along the arc from the current search zone.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Rights group counts 100s of deaths in Indian police custody

NEW DELHI (AP)—Nearly 600 people died in Indian police custody from 2009-2015, many of them after being tortured, a human rights group said Monday, urging India to enforce often-ignored regulations and prosecute officers who mistreat prisoners. Human Rights Watch said police regularly disregard arrest procedures and torture detained people to death. The police often blame such deaths on suicide or illness. While torture is illegal in the country, many Indian police are open about extracting confessions or details about crimes by applying the "third degree"—a euphemism that can encompass anything from a couple of slaps to a savage beating. "Until you use third degree against them, they will not speak," said Jairaj Sharma, a retired police officer in India's Uttar Pradesh state.

Australia and France sign deal to build 12 submarines

SYDNEY (AP)—Australia and France have signed an agreement to build the world's largest diesel-electric submarines in the Australian industrial town of Adelaide. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian signed the agreement on Tuesday in Adelaide where they also officially opened the Australian headquarters of DCNS, a French state majority-owned company that will design the Shortfin Barracuda subs. Turnbull described the 56 billion Australian dollar ($41 billion) contract to build 12 subs as the largest capital project in Australia's history. The contract is also DCNS's largest outside France.

World

Invoking Syria, policeman kills Russian ambassador to Turkey

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—A Turkish policeman fatally shot Russia's ambassador to Turkey on Monday in front of a shocked gathering at a photo exhibit and then, pacing near the body of his victim, appeared to condemn Russia's military role in Syria, shouting: "Don't forget Aleppo! Don't forget Syria!"

AP

An unnamed gunman shouts after shooting the Russian Ambassador to Turkey, Andrei Karlov, at a photo gallery in Ankara, Turkey, Monday, Dec. 19, 2016.

The leaders of Turkey and Russia said the attack in Ankara, the Turkish capital, was an attempt to disrupt efforts to repair ties between their countries, which have backed opposing sides in the Syrian civil war.

An Associated Press photographer and others at the art gallery watched in horror as the gunman, who was wearing a dark suit and tie, fired at least eight shots, at one point walking around Ambassador Andrei Karlov as he lay motionless and shooting him again at close range.

The assailant, who was identified as Mevlut Mert Altintas, a 22-year-old member of Ankara's riot police squad, was later killed in a shootout with police. Three other people were wounded in the attack, authorities said.

The assassination came after days of protests by Turks angry over Russia's support for President Bashar Assad in the Syrian conflict and Russia's role in the bombardment and destruction of Aleppo, Syria's largest city.

The gunman shouted about Aleppo in Turkish, and also yelled "Allahu akbar," the Arabic phrase for "God is great," continuing in Arabic: "We are the descendants of those who supported the Prophet Muhammad, for jihad."

The attack, condemned by the White House and the United Nations, was another sign of how Turkey, a NATO member and a partner in the U.S.-led campaign against the Islamic State group, is struggling to contain multiple security threats. The war in Syria has been a major problem for years, sending several million refugees into Turkey and, more recently, drawing in Turkish troops.

Turkey has become accustomed to deadly attacks—Kurdish militants claimed responsibility for Dec. 10 bombings in Istanbul that killed 44 people, many of them police.

The spectacle of 62-year-old Karlov's assassination by a member of the Turkish security forces at a photography exhibit meant to highlight Russian culture reinforced the sense of unease over the region's conflict and complex web of alliances and relationships.

It came a day before a key meeting about Syria to be held in Moscow. Those attending include the foreign and defense ministers from Turkey, an opponent of Assad, and Russia and Iran, backers of the Syrian regime.

IMF board: Lagarde will remain as chief despite conviction

WASHINGTON (AP)—Christine Lagarde will remain head of the International Monetary Fund despite her conviction Monday of negligence in a case dating to her tenure as France's finance minister.

The IMF's executive board quickly met after the court's decision and expressed "full confidence" in Lagarde's ability to carry out her duties at the head of the Washington-based international lending agency. In a statement, the board cited her "outstanding leadership" and the respect and trust she has worldwide.

After a weeklong trial, France's Court of Justice of the Republic found Lagarde guilty of one count of negligence but spared her jail time and a criminal record.

The 60-year-old IMF leader had potentially faced a year of imprisonment and a fine for not seeking to block a fraudulent 2008 arbitration award to a politically connected tycoon when she was finance minister.

Lagarde thanked the board for the vote of confidence "in my ability to do my job." She said she would not appeal the French court's decision.

"I am not satisfied with it, but there's a point in time when one must stop, turn the page and move on," she said.

Lagarde, a lawyer, became France's first female finance minister in 2007, overseeing the country's response to the financial crisis that rocked the global economy from 2008. She is also the first woman to head the IMF.

The troubling verdict comes as the IMF is weighing its role in multiple global crises, including a bailout for Greece.

"She is a strong leader," U.S. Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew said in a statement after the board's decision. "And we have every confidence in her ability to guide the fund at a critical time for the global economy."

The Court of Justice of the Republic is a special tribunal to hear cases of alleged criminality by ministers in office and is made up of three judges and 12 parliamentarians. It ruled that Lagarde's negligence in her management of a long-running arbitration case involving tycoon Bernard Tapie helped open the door for the fraudulent misappropriation of public funds. Lagarde herself was not accused of fraud.

The case revolves around a 403 million-euro ($425 million) arbitration award given to Tapie in 2008 over the botched sale of sportswear giant Adidas in the 1990s. Civil courts have since quashed the unusually generous award, declared the arbitration process and deal fraudulent and ordered Tapie to refund the money.

Good Housekeeping

Christmas displays draw some critics

AP

In this Dec. 14, 2016, photo, Jian Qing Chen, a recent arrival to New York from China's Fujian province, snaps a cell phone photo of Christmas decorations in the Dyker Heights neighborhood of the Brooklyn borough of New York.

By WILLIAM MATHIS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—It's a neighborhood Christmas display with New York City attitude: big, brash, loud and over-the-top.

Blazing lights, giant toy soldiers, angels, snowmen, wise men, Santas and piped-in Sinatra caroling form an all-out barrage on the senses from nearly every house in the heart of Brooklyn's Dyker Heights neighborhood, an annual extravaganza that draws thousands of tourists every evening by the car and busload.

But all of it has some residents just wishing for a silent night.

"As pretty as it can be, it's difficult," says Linda Rebmann, 72, who has lived in Dyker Heights all her life and has only an unlit cranberry wreath on her home. "It's a little out of hand. It's gotten to be a bit much."

Nobody is talking about pulling the plug on the displays, which are still a source of neighborhood pride. But there has been extra grumbling this season, especially after some parking spots usually used by residents were blocked off for rows of tour buses.

"This close to Christmas you can't walk. It's like Manhattan," says Joyce Arpino, 55, a resident for three decades. She says she stopped decorating inside her windows because gawkers would peer inside and rap the glass. Tourists used to park in front of her house or even in her driveway until she set out some orange traffic cones.

"I don't want to sound like a Scrooge," she says, "but it's horrible."

To that, residents like 30-year-old Vinny Privitelli respond: lighten up.

This year, he spent all of November and thousands of dollars to install strings of red and white lights on his roof and around every window and adorn his lawn with reindeer, a trio of dancing elves and a nativity scene. Privitelli admits part of the fun is trying to outdo his neighbors, some of whom hire professionals to do their displays. And he has no problem with the throngs of visitors who come to check it out.

"It's nice to see them enjoying it, that's what we get out of it," he says. "Everything in the news is negative, so at least we get one positive thing."

Around the corner, a crowd of 35 people stopped at another house, where every inch of the stoop and patio was packed with glowing nutcrackers, snowmen, reindeer and plastic angels.

On another lawn, a 13-foot-tall, animatronic Santa Claus sat between a pair of giant toy soldiers and two carousels ablaze with lights. It was all so bright that the selfie-snapping crowds didn't need to use a flash.

"Let's go folks. You can't hold up traffic," an officer inside a police van shouted at drivers stopped in the street.

"I like it when they take pictures," says Angela Peralta, whose display includes a candy cane arch over the driveway, a "Merry Christmas" banner and a waving, inflatable snowman. "People are very respectful. They say it's beautiful."

By most accounts, the light displays became a neighborhood activity in the 1980s, and buses began bringing in tourists from Manhattan about a decade ago. Some bus tours play up the area's Italian-American heritage, including stops at a nearby bakery for cannolis and hot chocolate.

Among the bus visitors this year was Jeanne Andrews, 66, who traveled from Vincennes, Indiana, to experience Christmas in the Big Apple. She went to see the tree in Rockefeller Center and the windows at Macy's, but this was different.

"I like this because it's so personal. Every family has something different," she says. "I love it. I just think it's spectacular."

AP

In this Dec. 14, 2016, photo, a sign warning spectators not to come onto the property is hung in front of a lighted creche display in the Dyker Heights neighborhood of the Brooklyn Borough of New York.

Death and Funeral Announcement

In Loving Memory of

Maria Lillian Tenorio Camacho

July 15, 1955 – December 13, 2016

PATERNAL GRANDPARENTS: Lino Pangelinan Tenorio
Magdalena Arriola Tenorio

MATERNAL GRANDPARENTS: Isidro Tudela Sablan
Laura Lizama Sablan

PATERNAL AUNTS & UNCLES:
†Inocencia Trinidad A. Tenorio
†Jose A. & †Crispina T. Tenorio
†Ana T. Chong & †Joaquin L. Chong
†Nicolas A. & †Magdalena DLC. Tenorio
†Luis A. & †Natividad DLC. Tenorio
†Maria T. & Eusebio S. Chargualaf
Consolacion T. & †Leonard James Kaufer
†Lourdes A. Tenorio
†Juan A. Tenorio

MATERNAL AUNTS AND UNCLES:
†Francisco P. Sablan
†Roman P. Sablan
Antonio P. Sablan
Gabriel P. Sablan
Isidro P. & Julie S. Sablan
Bernadita P. Sablan
Laura S. & Jack Muna
Magdalena S. & Isidro Palacios
Rita P. Sablan
Dolores P. Sablan
Rosa P. Sablan
†Segundo P. Sablan
Gregorio P. Sablan

PARENTS: †Pedro A. Tenorio/Isabel S. Tenorio

SPOUSE: Faustino Flores Camacho

CHILDREN: Manuel T. Camacho/Jennifer Santos Camacho (Matthew, Claymore, Ozzy)
Sidney T. Camacho/Victoria Apatang (John David, Donovan, Jacoby, Alaina Elizabeth)
Zachary T. Camacho/Livia Pangelinan (†Zachary Jr., Donavan, Zack Boy, Zion)
Brenda T. Camacho
†Nadine T. Camacho (Lance, Elizabeth)
Sherman T. Camacho/Jennelyn Cepeda Camacho (Julianna, Shanelle)

SIBLINGS: Pedro S. Tenorio Jr./ Virginia Camacho Tenorio
Margarita T. Cabrera/†Maximo Camacho Cabrera
Laura T. Quitano/Jose Quitano
Lino S. Tenorio/Marcela Tudela Tenorio
Magdalena T. Aguon/Jose Quichocho Aguon
Catherine S. Tenorio/Sixto Kaipat Igisomar

INLAWS: Mercedes C. Maratitia/†Isias Maratita
Augustina C. Cabrera/Jose Cabrera
Wihelma Juana C. DLG/†Jesus Q. DLG.
Arthuro F. Camacho/†Maria Balajadia
Frederico F. Camacho/Magdalena Castro
†Leonardo F. Camacho
Alfonsinia C. Taylor/Jim Taylor
Anicia C. DlCruz/Thomas DLCruz
Rosiky F. Camacho/Winnie Aldan Cabrera
Immaculada C. Arriola/Abraham Arriola
Rufino F. Camacho/Kiyomi Mafnas

She is also survived by numerous aunts & uncles, nephews, nieces, cousins and Godchildren.

On Friday, December 23, 2016 at 7:30am, her remains will be escorted from the CHC chapel to San Roque Church. Responso and Rosary will commence upon arrival followed by viewing and last respects.

Mass of Christian Burial will then be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. immediately followed by interment at San Roque Cemetery.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Mr. Faustino Flores Camacho & Family

Life & Style

Q&A: Sigourney Weaver on an unexpected life in sci-fi

TORONTO (AP)—A movie has a way of sitting up straight whenever Sigourney Weaver is in it. Whether the part is small or large, she reliably jolts any film alive with her intelligence and commanding presence. She usually means business.

That, of course, has been apparent since her breakthrough role as Ellen Ripley in "Alien." But it's no less true of Weaver at 67. She has an almost queen-like status on today's movie landscape, particularly in science-fiction.

She has defined one mega franchise ("Alien," with one more on the way) and been the MVP of another ("Avatar," with four sequels coming). Just her voice is enough to lend sci-fi credibility, whether as the ship's voice in "WALL-E" or as the all-powerful Director in "The Cabin in the Woods."

Weaver has been particularly ubiquitous in 2016, gracing the year's top box-office hit, "Finding Dory," with its best gag (her aquatic center greeting), and popping in to reprise her original role in the contentious "Ghostbusters" reboot. She was even glimpsed in Ron Howard's "The Beatles: Eight Days a Week - The Touring Years" as a young, rabid Beatlemaniac.

But she ends the year with "A Monster Calls," a smaller film that uses fantasy to plumb deeper emotional depths. Directed by J.A. Bayona (who's helming the next "Jurassic Park" film), the adaptation of Patrick Ness' novel is about a boy coping with his mother's terminal illness. Aside from approaching grief with uncommon seriousness, the film flips some genre tropes, including Weaver's grandmother character.

The actress (who hasn't lost a bit of her glamour) recently reflected on "A Monster Calls," her re-entry to Pandora and her legacy of strong female protagonists.

This Sept. 10, 2016 file photo shows Sigourney Weaver posing for a portrait at the Shangri-La Hotel to promote her film, "A Monster Calls," in Toronto. The film will be released in select theaters on Dec. 23, and opens nationwide on Jan. 6. AP

AP: Your father, Sylvester 'Pat' Weaver was president of NBC and created the "Tonight Show." Was it like you grew up in show business?

Weaver: At the time, I thought everyone's father ran a network. I thought everyone got to go on the set of "Peter Pan" and meet Mary Martin. I always used to think I was going to go to school and then come home and be a different girl and go to a different house. It took me a while to realize I was stuck with me. Maybe that's the early awareness of an actor that we're all changeable. I remember thinking, "Gosh, I'm so amazed I'm in this body for so long."

AP: You have such an impact on a film, regardless of how large your part is.

Weaver: I really love being part of a good story. I don't need to be the center of the story. That's why I really loved "A Monster Calls" because the grandmother was unlike anyone I've played before—not completely unlike my mother, who was British. It's a movie I hope families go to together.

AP: Was your small role in Woody Allen's "Annie Hall" your first film?

Weaver: Woody offered me a bigger part but I turned it down because I was in a play. I played a multiple schizophrenic who kept a hedgehog in her vagina and I wasn't going to give that part up.

AP: "Alien" was quite a follow-up.

Weaver: It didn't feel like a big movie to me. It felt like a very small, dark, strange movie and I could relate to that because I was used to doing very strange things off-Broadway. I thought: This is fine. This is like a workshop movie.

AP: Ripley was one of the first strong female protagonists in an action film. Is that a legacy you're proud of?

Weaver: I am. I've since read other scripts and I go, "Well that's kind of an interesting part but I'd rather play this guy." Because I always feel still, like in our world, there's a lot of testosterone in some of these movies where really legitimately a woman would be involved.

AP: Do you think that's changing?

Weaver: I think by the time your daughters are in the world, everything will be different.

AP: What did you think of the backlash to Paul Feig's "Ghostbusters"?

Weaver: I was very surprised by it. I enjoyed the movie. I love all those women. I think Feig is brilliant. I do think it has something to do with the misogyny Trump has unearthed. I thought it was very charming. Does it also make you remember how much you loved the first one? I think so, but not to the extent that I'm going to boycott it. We're sitting at the table. You've got to make room for us. We're not going to go away.

AP: Ang Lee's "Ice Storm" must be a film you're particularly proud of.

Weaver: I was discussing a character I might play with someone and they said, "This woman's cold." I said I find that a nonsensical adjective for a woman. I'm sure you could describe Janey in "Ice Storm" as cold but she wasn't cold. She was so disconnected from her life and bored by it.

AP: You're soon to head into one mammoth "Avatar" production.

Weaver: The scripts for "Avatar" are absolutely incredible. I have committed to a very interesting movie about a woman ("Second Saturn") that I hope to do in May. It's like: This is my wonderful meal before I go into Pandora.

In a March 19, 1955 file photo, Zsa Zsa Gabor, as she appears in the Paquin's sequence in the role of Jane Avril in director John Huston's 1952 Technicolor production " Moulin Rouge." AP

Zsa Zsa Gabor: A rare, unforgettable celebrity

NEW YORK (AP)—You didn't have to know exactly who she was to appreciate Zsa Zsa Gabor.

She belonged to a rare, hard-to-catalog vintage of celebrity, not only the great-aunt of Paris Hilton, but a true ancestor of Hilton's jet-set flamboyance.

For such a flashy member of the leisure class, she did plenty, appearing in a number of films, including Orson Welles' "Touch of Evil"; logging enough husbands to field a baseball team; and flaunting sex appeal, excess glamour and an exotic accent into her senior years.

But none of this fully accounts for the enduring recognition she enjoyed and cultivated. Maybe she just knew how to work it. Maybe it happened above and beyond her control. It certainly helped that she was in on the joke.

She was a symbol, from the 1950s on, of European style and flair, of material and romantic extravagance. She was rich in more ways than one. She was playful and outspoken. She was blessed with a ritzy, come-hither name: Zsaahhhh Zsaahhhh!

Hungarian film critic Andras Rez said Monday that in her homeland, there were two Zsa Zsa Gabors.

"The first was a notorious celebrity who appeared regularly in the tabloids with a new husband and who was called the 'most famous Hungarian in America.' The other Zsa Zsa Gabor was the actress. She may not have been the world's greatest actress, but she had some great roles."

Some of the heavy lifting that helped sustain the Gabor brand was courtesy of Zsa Zsa's lookalike sister Eva, who shared the Gabor pizazz. Eva's star turn in the 1960s as a sitcom socialite on "Green Acres" has guaranteed her immortality in the pop-culture pantheon—and, by association, given Zsa Zsa status beyond her own accomplishments.

But Zsa Zsa could be funny, too.

In a TV commercial from 1963, a begowned, bejeweled Gabor extols the virtues of the Studebaker Lark, kittenishly calling this midlevel compact "so nice, so chic."

The car featured newfangled disc brakes, and in her fractured English, Gabor purrs to the audience, "My friend says I would be in jail from coast to coast if I wouldn't have them."

In 1989, she hit the brakes and had a celebrated brush with the law while driving not a Lark, but her own Rolls-Royce Corniche convertible. She slapped the face of a Beverly Hills, California, police officer who had the effrontery to stop her for a traffic violation. The officer was rude, she testified at the trial where she was subsequently found guilty of assault.

Her arrest became just another sparkling career move. She spoofed the incident in "Naked Gun 2 1-2" and various other cameo appearances.

Dahling, the Zsa Zsa legend cannot die, even in a culture with short memories where attention-seekers jostle for camera time. She lives on, unchallenged, in the cultural ether. Meanwhile, it's not hard to imagine her in heaven right now, tricked out with wings and a Blackglama mink, advising St. Peter that the Pearly Gates clash with her diamonds.

Katie Holmes to Neil Diamond: Celeb playlists for New Year's

NEW YORK (AP)—New Year's Eve is the party of the year, so what's on the playlist of Neil Diamond? How about Amy Adams?

We asked celebrities for their ideal jams to ring in 2017:

OCTAVIA SPENCER: "I love Katy Perry Roar. Roarrrrrrr. Oh ah ah ah ah."

WILL SMITH: "I want to be moved physically by the music, so Calvin Harris would be up in that kind of tempo, joy, energetic range."

JENNIFER ANISTON: "I let Justin Theroux take care of the music. We hear a lot of Steely Dan."

LUCAS HEDGES: "James Blake, the new Bon Iver album ('22, A Million'), classic Joni Mitchell and Neil Young, 'Harvest Moon.' Yeah, I mix it up."

AP

In this Sunday, Dec. 11, 2016, file photo, Amy Adams arrives at the 22nd annual Critics' Choice Awards at the Barker Hangar in Santa Monica, Calif.

DAVID OYELOWO: "Nothing probably in the charts right now. We'll probably end up singing 'Bohemian Rhapsody' very loudly throughout my house."

KATIE HOLMES: "I think Whip and Nae Nae, because how great to dance to that on New Year's Eve."

KATE McKINNON: "Well, there's only one and it's Beyonce."

GAEL GARCIA BERNAL: "Oh man, I'm so promiscuous with music. In 'Mozart in the Jungle' we perform (Olivier) Messiaen, a French composer from early 20th century. I've been rediscovering him."

AMY ADAMS: "We usually do some karaoke, so you know a little bit of heavy metal comes up. I'm a closet hardcore 1980s power ballad singer."

NEIL DIAMOND: "All of my Christmas albums. I've got four of them, and those will be the ones that are on."

EDWARD NORTON: "If you're walking around Greenwich Village in the late night—I'm often walking the dog and singing 'Hamilton' too loud in my earphones. I've seen people going, 'Is that Edward Norton screaming the lyrics to 'Hamilton' across the street?'"

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

A&E to air 'Generation KKK' docuseries exposing Ku Klux Klan

NEW YORK (AP)—A&E network is set to air a documentary series focused on the Ku Klux Klan. Announced Monday, "Generation KKK" aims to expose the missions of this racist, anti-Semitic organization and show its impact on American families as Klan members grapple with the consequences of breaking free. Throughout eight one-hour episodes, the series follows four families including an "Imperial Wizard" who hopes to groom his teenage daughter to take his place, and a fifth-generation Klan family struggling to keep up the legacy. The series promises to take viewers inside the places where hatred and prejudice are born and bred. It will also follow a group of anti-hate and peace activists working to break the cycle by helping convince members to leave the hate group. "Generation KKK" premieres Jan. 10.

New subway line to feature works by 4 celebrated artists

NEW YORK (AP)—A subway line opening in New York City next year will have walls decorated with artworks by four celebrated contemporary artists. Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo (KWOH'-moh) made the announcement about Manhattan's Second Avenue subway line Monday at the Museum of Modern Art. The line opens Jan. 1 and will have four stations. Each station will display ceramic-tile or mosaic pieces by one of the four artists: Chuck Close, Sarah Sze, Jean Shin and Vik Muniz. Sze's designs feature objects including trees, birds and scaffolding. Close made portraits of cultural figures including artists Kara Walker and Alex Katz. Muniz created life-size figures of everyday New Yorkers. Shin produced images of the old Second and Third Avenue elevated subway. The Second Avenue subway line is slated to eventually expand north into Harlem.

Martin Scorsese's nephew arrested on trespassing charges

NEW YORK (AP)—The nephew of Oscar-winning movie director Martin Scorsese has been arrested after New York City police say he tried to enter a Staten Island home by cutting through the screen door with a knife. Frank Scorsese, of Staten Island, was arraigned Saturday on charges including criminal trespass and criminal possession of a weapon. He was ordered held on $20,000 bail. It's unclear if he has an attorney who can comment on his behalf. A criminal complaint says the 41-year-old Scorsese was caught on video ripping the screen door off the West Brighton home Friday night and kicking the inner door. Police say he fled the scene when he was confronted by the homeowner. The New York Daily News reports that police couldn't say why he was allegedly at the home.

Isamu Noguchi sculpture installed near NYC's Holland Tunnel

NEW YORK (AP)—A sculpture by Isamu Noguchi (ee-SAH'-moo noh-GOO'-chee) is on display in a Manhattan neighborhood where the Holland Tunnel connects New York and New Jersey. The abstract work, called "Octetra," went up Monday on a plaza in Hudson Square. The geometric red sculpture is over 7 feet high and consists of five, four-sided triangular pyramids. There are about a dozen casts of the work. It comes from the collection of Julie and Edward Minskoff and is presented by the Hudson Square Connection and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. The length of its stay has not yet been determined. The late Japanese-American artist also specialized in furniture and set designs. He created the stainless steel reliefs at a Rockefeller Center building that once housed The Associated Press.

Adam West to sell Batman-themed paintings he's created

KETCHUM, Idaho (AP)—The actor who portrayed the tights-clad Batman in the 1960s TV series is selling paintings he has created of villains from the show at an art gallery in the central Idaho resort town of Ketchum near where he now lives.

The opening night of "Criminals on Canvas" is Wednesday at the Gilman Contemporary art gallery, and West is scheduled to attend.

The 88-year-old West in a statement says his paintings capture the humor, zaniness and depth of Batman villains as well as the Freudian motivations of Batman.

West's deadpan portrayal of the comic hero in the campy 1960s series brought the Capped Crusader into the national consciousness as he battled Catwoman, the Joker, the Riddler and the Penguin.

The Sun Valley and Ketchum area typically attracts many wealthy visitors during the holidays.

Fifth Harmony becomes quartet after Camila Cabello quits

Camila Cabello has left Fifth Harmony to pursue a solo career but said the girl group shouldn't be surprised by her departure.

Cabello wrote in a statement posted on several on social media sites that she has repeatedly talked with the other group members about her plans to focus on a solo career.

Her post came hours after other Fifth Harmony group members released a statement on Twitter early Monday saying they were just informed of her plans. They said the group will continue as a quartet.

"We are four strong, committed women who will continue with Fifth Harmony as well as our solo endeavors," the group wrote in a statement.

Both sides wished the other well.

Cabello's statement reflected on private moments the group shared, and thanked fans for their support.

"New chapters are scary, but conforming to what's safe and looking back with regret would be even scarier," she wrote.

Fifth Harmony was formed on the second season of the "The X Factor" in 2012 and scored its biggest hit last year with "Worth It."

Woman abused as child needs help to overcome her hang-ups

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 46-year-old woman with PTSD due to a history of physical abuse, mental abuse and incest that I experienced as a child. I'm proud to say that it has not been repeated with my four children.

My childhood history has made me want sex only if I am in control or if I am role-playing rape. It has caused a big problem with my fiance. I want this scenario all the time, and unfortunately it's unhealthy. I'm not sure how to go about healthy sex with him. He is 10 years older than I am and not interested in "different" sex practices.

I love him very much and don't want to mess up this relationship because of my sex issues. Can you advise me how to handle this?

ROLE-PLAYING IN ST. PAUL

DEAR ROLE-PLAYING: If you haven't discussed the reason for your sexual issues with your fiance, you need to explain the reason for them. From your letter, I am guessing that you never had counseling to help you resolve the abuse to which you were subjected. If that's correct, I am advising you to contact RAINN (Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network; rainn.org) or a local rape crisis organization and ask for some help now. The counselors are specially trained to help victims of various kinds of abuse, and the place to start resolving your issues would be there.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a woman in my 30s. My father has been in prison since I was a tot. I was raised by my mother who, in my opinion, did a great job. My relationship with my father has been damaged for as long as I can remember. He will never get out, and part of me is angry at him for making such poor life choices.

When I was a teenager he struck me once during a visit. He is also manipulative and sometimes does hurtful things. For example, a few years ago he wrote me letters to which I never responded. When I finally got around to writing him back, he mailed my letters back to me (unopened) and said I deserved to see how it felt to have letters go unanswered.

He has said he's convinced he will die within five years because he's nearing the ages when his parents died. I think there's something wrong with him, and I'm afraid that after he passes on I'll feel like I didn't make enough of an effort. How do I proceed with my relationship with my father?

CAUTIOUS IN THE SOUTH

DEAR CAUTIOUS: Your father made terrible life choices, and he's spending the rest of his life paying for them. I don't blame you for feeling anger at his inability to parent you. However, before advising you to write him off, I would need to know why he lashed out at you during your prison visit, even though hitting is unacceptable.

When people are incarcerated, their ability to reach out is severely limited, as I am sure you know all too well. I don't think the way your father handled your ignoring his letters was bad or wrong. If his silence stung you, imagine how yours affected him.

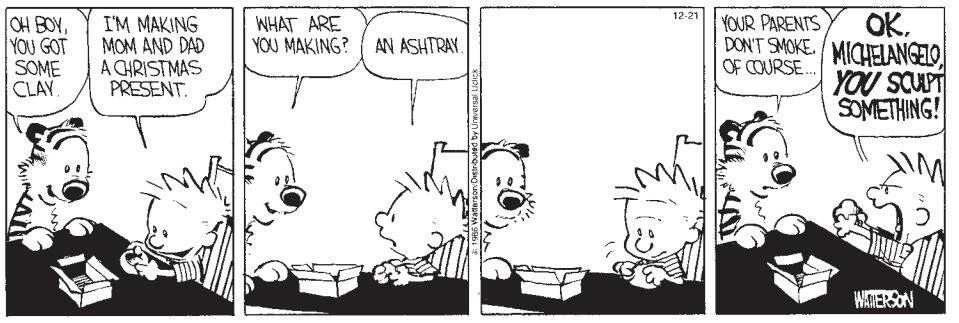
Whether or not your father is dying is beside the point. I think on some level you know you have to treat him with more compassion than you have, or you wouldn't have written to me. I don't know anyone who hasn't made mistakes. Your father made a doozy. But you say your mother raised you right, and if that's true it couldn't hurt to treat him with some compassion.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

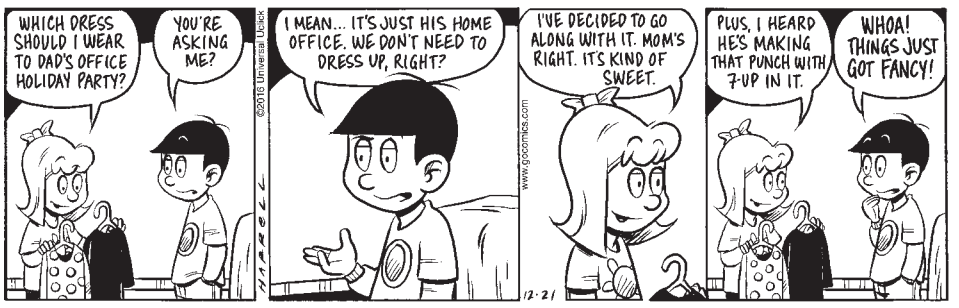

OH BOY, YOU GOT SOME CLAY.
I'M MAKING MOM AND DAD A CHRISTMAS PRESENT.
WHAT ARE YOU MAKING?
AN ASHTRAY.
12-21
YOUR PARENTS DON'T SMOKE, OF COURSE...
OK, MICHELANGELO, YOU SCULPT SOMETHING!
WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

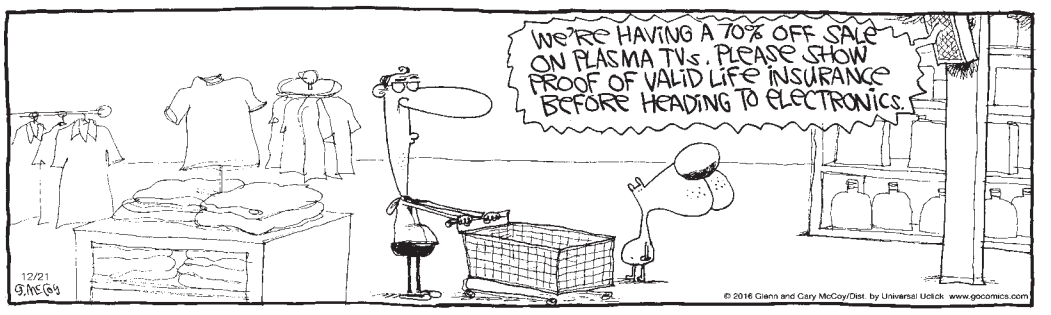
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHICH DRESS SHOULD I WEAR TO DAD'S OFFICE HOLIDAY PARTY?
YOU'RE ASKING ME?
I MEAN... IT'S JUST HIS HOME OFFICE. WE DON'T NEED TO DRESS UP, RIGHT?
I'VE DECIDED TO GO ALONG WITH IT. MOM'S RIGHT. IT'S KIND OF SWEET.
PLUS, I HEARD HE'S MAKING THAT PUNCH WITH 7-UP IN IT.
WHOA! THINGS JUST GOT FANCY!
©2016 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com
12·21

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


WE'RE HAVING A 70% OFF SALE ON PLASMA TVs. PLEASE SHOW PROOF OF VALID LIFE INSURANCE BEFORE HEADING TO ELECTRONICS.
12/21
© 2016 Glenn and Cary McCoy/Dist. by Universal Uclick www.gocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Creche trio
5 eBay offer
8 Farm unit
12 Algerian port
13 GI entertainers
14 Active one
15 French loaf
17 Blue hue
18 Milky Way points
19 Ab exercises
21 Outside (Pref.)
24 Scottish river
25 Evergreens
28 Waffle brand
30 Stick with a kick
33 Fuss
34 Yule tune
35 AAA job
36 As well
37 Exploits
38 Aviation prefix
39 Scratch the surface
41 Attempt
43 Go too far
46 Bread grain
50 Low-calorie
51 Brief scene
54 Tittle
55 Prior night
56 Crazy
57 Spanish cheers
58 "Science Guy" Bill
59 "— She Sweet"

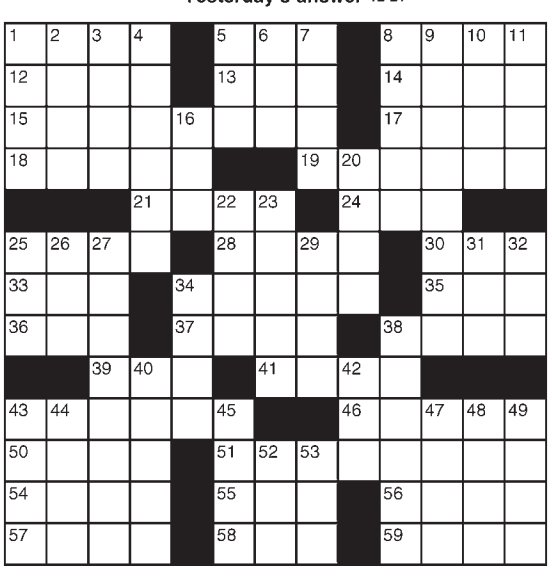
DOWN

1 Unruly groups
2 "I smell —!"
3 Infatuated
4 Accustoms
5 However
6 Follower (Suff.)
7 Accomplishes
8 Marble type
9 Seductive woman
10 Enlist again
11 Historic periods
16 Computer key
20 Teen fave
22 Herbal brews
23 Shrek and others
25 Corpulent
26 Altar promise
27 Sleeping-car area
29 "Holy cow!"
31 Neither mate
32 Pair
34 It may get in the whey
38 Goddess of wisdom
40 Locales
42 Possess
43 Hodge-podge
44 Cello's ancestor
45 It takes the cake
47 Needle case
48 Envelope abbr.
49 Try out
52 Wall climber
53 "My word!"

Solution time: 23 mins.

C	R	I	B	■	P	A	M	■	A	I	D	A
A	U	R	A	■	U	R	I	■	U	R	A	L
T	E	E	T	I	M	E	S	■	G	A	R	B
■	■	■	M	B	A	■	S	K	U	N	K	S
S	T	E	A	M	■	C	P	A	S	■	■	■
W	O	R	N	■	T	R	E	E	T	O	P	S
A	R	I	■	S	H	O	A	L	■	G	E	E
T	I	C	K	T	O	C	K	■	C	R	A	W
■	■	■	E	A	R	S	■	B	O	E	R	S
C	A	V	E	R	N	■	H	E	H	■	■	■
A	S	A	P	■	T	E	A	T	O	W	E	L
N	I	N	O	■	O	A	R	■	R	A	V	E
S	T	E	N	■	N	U	T	■	T	R	E	X

Yesterday's answer 12-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kiefer Sutherland, 50; Ray Romano, 61; Samuel L. Jackson, 68; Jane Fonda, 79.

Happy Birthday: Regret is a waste of time. Consider what you can do to realign your goals and get back on track. Revisit old pursuits and unfinished quests and make a promise that you will follow through with the plans that mean the most to you. Don't give up when you should be embracing life, building momentum and doing things your way. Your numbers are 8, 14, 20, 24, 31, 36, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Make love a priority. Take time out of your busy schedule to do something nice for someone in need. A change at work will leave you in a quandary about what to do next. Don't fret. Explore new possibilities. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Offer to help a cause you believe in. Your insight and desire to do something nice for others will boost your reputation. Travel plans should be made ahead of time. A change to your routine can be expected. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Things are looking up. Do some last-minute shopping and you'll find a bargain in the perfect gift to give to someone you love. Incorporate new skills and experiences into your job. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Emotions will surface when it comes to matters concerning children, domestic issues or last-minute spending. Stick close to home and avoid getting caught up in situations that can leave you short of funds. Choose brains over brawn. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You can get some serious chores out of the way. Last-minute shopping, making travel arrangements or getting together with someone you want to see before the year ends are all recommended. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Make a point to change your look or do something that will add to your popularity. A year-end bonus or positive change in your financial situation looks promising, but will require you to handle your money matters wisely. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Emotions will rise to the surface, causing anxiety. Stay focused on what's important and move forward quickly. The changes you want to bring about can only be accomplished if you don't let last-minute developments alter your course. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't let anyone take advantage of you. Your skills are likely to be called upon by someone using emotional manipulation. Be aware of ulterior motives and only offer what you feel is fair. Look out for your own interests. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Listen carefully and observe what others do before you respond. Overreacting will not help you gain respect or improve your position. Keep indulgence to a minimum at industry events. Choose to be a help, not a hindrance. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You'll face problems while dealing with authority figures or while traveling. Don't take anything for granted. Making do with what you've got will speak volumes about your character. Pay more attention to the way you look. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Refuse to let anyone in an authoritative position bully you. Stand your ground and only do what is within your means. An unusual offer from someone you least expect will help you out financially. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Nurture important relationships. Don't limit what you can do because you feel obligated to put others first. Be sure to take care of the little things and try not to overspend on spur-of-the-moment purchases. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are unpredictable, sensitive and popular. You are outspoken and proud.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2	6							
9		7						
	1		7		4			
		1		2		9		
			8			6	2	
		5						4
			4	5		1		3
				1				9
					2	7	6	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	1	3	5	2	8	6	4	9
4	5	2	7	6	9	8	3	1
8	6	9	3	1	4	7	5	2
2	8	1	4	3	6	9	7	5
9	7	4	8	5	2	3	1	6
6	3	5	9	7	1	2	8	4
5	9	8	6	4	7	1	2	3
3	2	7	1	9	5	4	6	8
1	4	6	2	8	3	5	9	7

Difficulty Level ★★ 12/20

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

FUNKY CARPETS Solution: 5 letters

D	N	W	O	V	E	N	D	E	T	T	I	F	C	S
E	E	A	S	D	N	E	L	B	L	A	S	I	S	E
C	E	R	N	Y	K	C	A	P	O	O	L	T	D	M
O	D	M	E	O	N	B	A	E	M	Y	A	Ⓡ	E	O
R	L	T	O	D	T	T	A	B	R	P	L	Ⓤ	S	H
A	E	H	L	L	I	L	H	C	L	A	A	Ⓖ	I	A
T	F	A	D	A	E	O	A	E	K	E	Y	Ⓢ	G	N
I	E	F	S	E	T	F	R	D	T	I	Z	O	N	D
V	L	G	N	I	D	N	I	B	G	I	N	I	N	C
E	T	H	R	M	R	I	E	N	M	G	C	G	S	R
Z	S	A	A	O	T	O	A	I	Y	E	R	O	M	A
E	I	N	Y	O	I	I	U	R	R	S	S	A	S	F
I	W	O	O	L	L	A	W	N	B	O	T	E	D	T
R	T	U	F	T	E	D	R	O	D	S	C	R	Y	E
F	I	B	E	R	S	B	E	D	S	P	R	E	A	D

© 2016 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 12/21

Acrylic, Afghan, Area, Artsy, Backing, Bedspread, Binding, Blends, Braided, Cable, Cost, Dalton, Decorative, Design, Dyes, Embroidered, Fibers, Fitted, Frieze, Grade, Handcrafted, Homes, Hooked, Loom, Loop, Mats, Needle Felt, Olefin, Oriental, Plush, Rayon, Rods, Round, Rugs, Sisal, Size, Staple, Synthetic, Tiles, Tufted, Twist, Wall, Warmth, Wool, Woven, Yarns

Yesterday's Answer: Orchids

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 or 24 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED

Skilled Carpenters and Masons with CW-1 issued or approved from October 2016 up to present. 5 years experience required. $7/hour

Please call 989-2600 or 483-8729

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
FAX: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ROMEO C. VILLA
Petitioner,
Versus
EVA ALQUEZA VILLA
Respondent.

FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0589

SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Ilmwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitinoer's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:
Dated this 6th day of December, 2016.

/s/ **Deputy of Court**
Superior Court

PLACE YOUR ADVERT HERE!

For opportunities contact us at
235-6397

share the power of a wish℠
MAKE-A-WISH®
Visit us at:
Make-A-Wish Guam
590 South Marine Corps Drive. ITC Bldg, Suite 109
Tamuning, GU 9691303507
Tel: (670) 483-9474
Email: info@guam.wish.org
www.guam.wish.org
Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

HR MANAGER

Bach. deg. in Mgt (may be foreign equiv); 5 yrs exp. Responsible for the overall design & implementation of all facets of HR, i.e. Staffing deployment, Employee's Info & servicer records, Employee Comp & Benefit, Employee relations, Training & devt., Payroll, Events Mgt., Employee Engagements/Performance management. Resolve work related problems inc. refereeing disputes, firing employees & administering disciplinary actions, Advise mgt on short term & long term co. objectives, policies & action in compliance with federal state & local legal requirements. In charge of compliance with govt. reporting req.

Send resume to Marfega Trading Co., Inc., P.O. Box 502356 Saipan, MP 96950

PACIFIC TRADING COMPANY, LTD.

P.O. Box 500236 Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 322 -6624/5483 Fax: (670) 322-5616

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Title: Computer Network Support Specialist

Provide technical assistance to computer users. Answer questions or resolve computer problems. The employee may provide assistance concerning the use of computer hardware and software, including printing, installation, word processing, electronic mail, and operating systems.

Tasks

- Oversee the daily performance of computer systems
- Configure wide area network (WAN) or local area network (LAN) routers or related equipment.
- Identify and troubleshoot the causes of networking or connectivity problems for users or user groups using diagnostic testing software and equipment.
- Provide telephone support related to networking or connectivity issues.
- Evaluate local area network (LAN) or wide area network (WAN) performance data to ensure sufficient availability or speed, to identify network problems, or for disaster recovery purposes.
- Analyze network data to determine network usage, disk space availability, or server function.
- Install network software or equipment for employee use, performing or ensuring proper installation of cables, operating systems, or appropriate software.
- Maintain records of daily data communication transactions, problems and remedial actions taken, or installation activities.
- Read technical manuals, confer with users, or conduct computer diagnostics to investigate and resolve problems or to provide technical assistance and support.
- Perform routine maintenance or standard repairs to networking components or equipment.
- Refer major hardware or software problems or defective products to vendors or technicians for service.
- Run monthly network reports.
- Responsible for generating daily inventory transfer reports; monthly itemized sales report and other reports as requested by management.
- Research hardware or software products to meet technical networking or security needs.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

Skills and Qualifications: Problem solving skill, Time Management and Organization Skill, Written and Verbal Communication Skill, System Analysis and Troubleshooting Skills, Analytical Thinking skill.

Qualification Requirement
Any combination equivalent to graduation with an Associate's degree plus five years of related work experience.

PTC offers a competitive salary to correspond with experience and qualification. Interested person may pick up an employment application at our office in Puerto Rico. Deadline for submission is no later than 5:00pm on December 23, 2016.

Pacific Trading Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

WHATZIT Solution: Mayonnaise

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

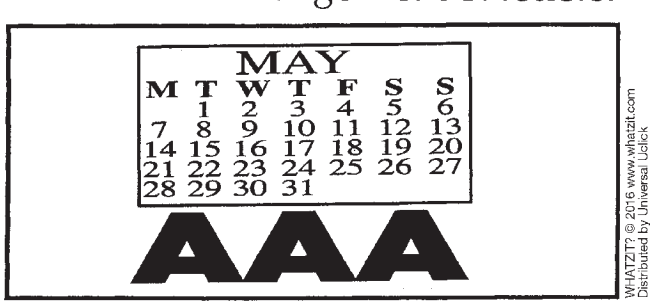
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT™

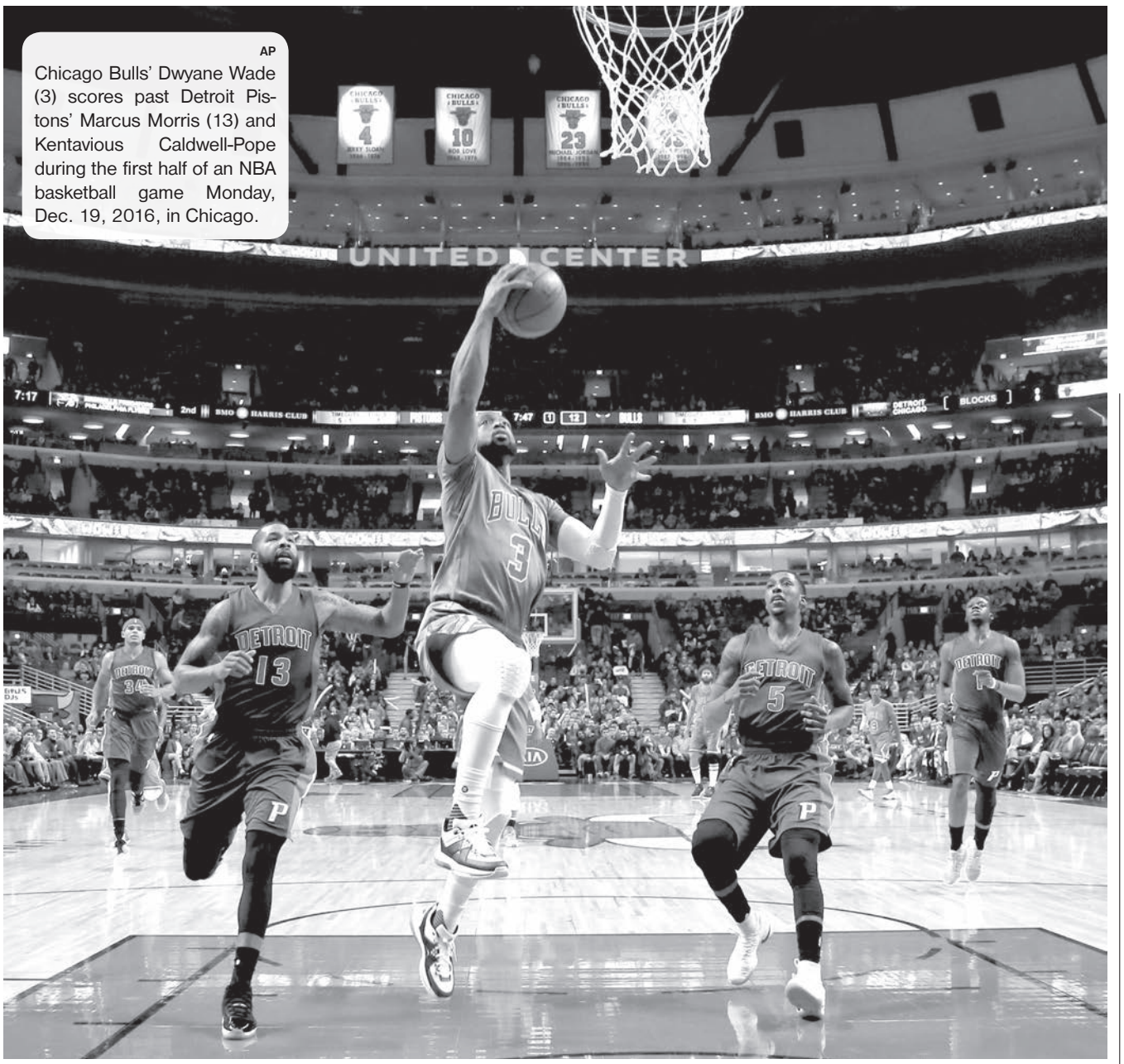
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.


MAY
M T W T F S S
1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30 31
AAA
WHATZIT? © 2016 www.whatzit.com
Distributed by Universal Uclick

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Bulls break out of slump for 113-82 rout of Pistons



AP
Chicago Bulls' Dwyane Wade (3) scores past Detroit Pistons' Marcus Morris (13) and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope during the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Dec. 19, 2016, in Chicago.

CHICAGO (AP)— Jimmy Butler scored 19 points, Rajon Rondo had 10 points, 14 assists and eight rebounds, and the Chicago Bulls beat the Detroit Pistons 113-82 on Monday night to snap a three-game losing streak.

Taj Gibson added 16 points, Robin Lopez had 14 and Dwyane Wade, Doug McDermott and Nikola Mirotic had 13 apiece for Chicago, which had lost six of eight.

Jon Leuer scored 16 points for the Pistons, who have dropped three straight and four of five.

After scoring just 69 points in a 26-point loss on Friday, the Bulls busted out for 69 points in the first two quarters, their best for any half this season.

Chicago, which entered tied for sixth-worst in the NBA with a .436 field-goal percentage, made 17 of 21 shots (81 percent) in taking a 35-19 lead at the end of the first quarter.

The Bulls had 15 assists on their 17 first-half field goals, with Rondo (seven) and Butler (six) leading the way.

The Bulls still were shooting a blistering 72.7 percent at halftime—they led 69-34—and even managed to knock down 4 of 6 3-pointers, which had been a problem during their recent struggles.

The lead was 97-63 entering the fourth quarter, and the Pistons offered little resistance from there. None of the Chicago starters played in the fourth.

Hawks 110, Thunder 108

In Oklahoma City, Paul Millsap hit the go-ahead 10-footer with 12.7 seconds left as the Atlanta Hawks overcame Russell Westbrook's 46 points to beat the Oklahoma City Thunder.

After Millsap's shot, Thunder center Steven Adams rebounded a missed 3-pointer by Westbrook and dunked it, but a review determined that the basket came just after time expired.

Westbrook, the NBA's leading scorer with more than 30 points per game, also had 11 rebounds and seven assists.

Dennis Schroder scored 31 points and Millsap added a season-high 30 for the Hawks, who won despite center Dwight Howard missing the game with tightness in his lower back.

Jerami Grant scored a season-high 15 points, and Andre Roberson matched a season high with 14 points for the Thunder.

Pacers 107, Wizards 105

In Indianapolis, Thaddeus Young made a runner with 0.9 seconds left to give Indiana a victory over Washington.

Paul George scored 27 points and Jeff Teague had 23, but the Pacers needed the last of Young's 12 points after the Wizards scored seven straight to tie it.

With 4.6 seconds remaining, Young took the inbound pass at the top of the key, squared up his defender, Markieff Morris, then drove and put up his runner from the left side.

Bradley Beal missed a potential winning 3-pointer at the buzzer and scored 22 points.

Marcin Gortat finished with 21 points and 13 rebounds, John Wall added 19 points and 10 assists, and Otto Porter Jr. scored 17 points and grabbed nine rebounds.

Timberwolves 115, Suns 108

In Minneapolis, Karl-Anthony Towns had 28 points and 15 rebounds as Minnesota beat Phoenix.

Andrew Wiggins scored 26 points and Zach LaVine added 23 for the Timberwolves. Ricky Rubio had 12 assists and Minnesota picked up its first win at home since Nov. 17.

Eric Bledsoe scored 27 points for the Suns, who have lost three straight and four out of five. Brandon Knight had 21 points off the bench and Devin Booker scored 18 on 6-for-15 shooting for Phoenix.

Nuggets 117, Mavericks 107

In Denver, Nikola Jokic had 27 points and 14 rebounds while Gary Harris scored a career-high 24 points as Denver beat Dallas.

Jokic finished an assist shy of his first career triple-double and tied his career high in points to help the Nuggets win their third straight game.

Emmanuel Mudiay scored 18 points.

Deron Williams led Dallas with 23 points and eight assists.

Denver's offensive surge started after its 20-point loss in Dallas on Dec. 12. Coach Michael Malone shook up his starting lineup and the Nuggets have responded by scoring 30 or more points in eight of the last 12 quarters and are averaging 125.3 points since the change.

Rockies, reliever Mike Dunn agree on $19M, 3-year deal

DENVER (AP)— First baseman: Check. Veteran reliever: Check.

Usually more frugal this time of year, the Colorado Rockies are crossing quite a few big-ticket items off their free agency shopping list. On Thursday, the team shored up its shaky bullpen by agreeing to a $19 million, three-year contract with reliever Mike Dunn.

It's the second splashy move the Rockies have made in recent days. They also signed All-Star outfielder Ian Desmond to a $70 million, five-year deal as he makes the switch to first base.

Colorado may not be done shopping, either.

Even after adding Dunn and Desmond, Colorado general manager Jeff Bridich hinted he may still be retooling the team for Bud Black's first year as Rockies manager. Colorado went 75-87 last season, its best record since 2010, and is trying to close the gap on the Los Angeles Dodgers and San Francisco Giants in the NL West.

"I believe in this club and this collection of players we have already on the team and the players that are coming in," Bridich said. "But I think it would be remiss to say we're going to sit here and be satisfied."

Hence, the conversations with free agents such as long-ball hitters Mark Trumbo and Edwin Encarnacion.

"Our process will always be, as I've said, eyes and ears open to whatever, whether that's free agency or a trade," Bridich said.

By signing with Colorado, Dunn not only moves closer to home but possibly to landing a closer's role. The Farmington, New Mexico, native has typically worked the middle innings over his career.

"You always want to potentially become a closer if you're a reliever," Dunn said Thursday at his introductory news conference. "Ultimately, I want to win baseball games, however that pans out."

The 31-year-old left-hander figures to help buoy a bullpen that blew 28 saves last season. He went 6-1 with a 3.40 ERA in 51 appearances for the Miami Marlins and had eight holds and four blown saves.

Another thing: He's far from intimidated by the way routine fly balls travel in the thin air of Coors Field.

"You make good pitches, you'll get outs," Dunn casually said. "Make better pitches and win the game."

Dunn joins a bullpen that includes relievers such as Adam Ottavino—the favorite to be the closer heading into spring training - Jake McGee, Chad Qualls and Jason Motte, along with younger arms like Carlos Estevez. Colorado finished 12-20 in games decided by one run last season as the bullpen posted a 5.10 ERA.

"We're trying to build a good pen where once the starter comes out and we have the lead the game is over," Dunn said.

Dunn was picked by the New York Yankees in the 33rd round of the 2004 amateur draft. He is 28-25 over his career with the Yankees, Atlanta Braves and the Marlins. He's durable, too, only landing on the disabled list once in his career - at the beginning of 2016, with a strained forearm.

"I can't guarantee the results, but I guarantee I'll leave everything on the field," Dunn said. "My goal is to get in 80 games, maybe 81 - try to pitch every other day. I train for that and that's what I shoot for."

Dunn grew up in Farmington, which is about a seven-hour drive from Denver.

"When I was younger, I told my dad, 'I'll pitch in that stadium someday,'" Dunn said. "This has been a location I've been looking at for a long time. I've been paying attention to what they're doing. It's a very exciting group of guys.

"It's a team that has got high hopes and it's somewhere I really want to come and hopefully win a championship."

Clippers say Blake Griffin to have surgery, miss 3-6 weeks

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Blake Griffin of the Los Angeles Clippers will have surgery on Tuesday to clean out his right knee, and is expected to miss three to six weeks.

The Clippers said the surgery will be "a routine arthroscopic procedure" to remove loose bodies from the knee.

Griffin scored 26 points on Sunday in the Clippers' loss at Washington. He is averaging 21.2 points, 8.8 rebounds and 4.7 assists this season, and played in 26 of the Clippers' first 28 games.

Griffin is a five-time NBA All-Star. He was limited to 35 regular-season games last season because of an array of injuries.

The Clippers open a three-game homestand against Denver on Tuesday, and visit the Lakers on Christmas night.

Redskins lose control of playoff hopes with loss to Panthers

LANDOVER, Md. (AP)—Kirk Cousins threw an interception and fumbled near his goal line as the Washington Redskins coughed up their easiest path to the playoffs with a 26-15 loss to the defending NFC champion Carolina Panthers on Monday night.

Washington (7-6-1) could have clinched a playoff berth by winning its final three games but now needs help. Carolina (6-8) kept its astronomical wild-card hopes alive and dealt a serious blow to the Redskins' chances with two weeks left in the season.

After being picked off by Kurt Coleman in the first half to set up a Carolina field goal, Cousins was sacked by Wes Horton and fumbled on the first snap after halftime as the Panthers took over at the 1-yard line. They scored two plays later to take a 20-9 lead.

Cousins finished 32 of 47 for 316 yards with far too many missed throws in a game with such high stakes.

Reigning league MVP Cam Newton showed no ill effects from a shoulder injury suffered last week, throwing for 300 yards and two touchdowns as the Panthers took advantage of blunders by the Redskins, who lost their sixth consecutive Monday night home game.

AP

Carolina Panthers fullback Mike Tolbert (35) rolls over Washington Redskins outside linebacker Martrell Spaight (50) for a touchdown during the second half of an NFL football game in Landover, Md., Monday, Dec. 19, 2016.

It was Washington's most lopsided loss since being routed 38-16 by Pittsburgh in the season opener, also on a Monday night.

FLAGS FOR 15

Newton was penalized 15 yards for unsportsmanlike conduct in the second quarter for taunting Redskins linebacker Trent Murphy after scrambling for a 1-yard gain. Newton thought the flag was on Murphy for hitting him in the helmet while sliding.

Instead, the penalty took the Panthers out of field goal range, moving the ball from the Washington 26 to the 41.

Redskins tight end Jordan Reed took an even costlier penalty late in the third quarter when he was flagged 15 yards and ejected for throwing a punch at Coleman. That penalty contributed to Washington settling for a field goal when trailing by 14.

BLACK AND BLUE REDSKINS

The Redskins lost linebacker Ryan Kerrigan to a left elbow injury, cornerback Quinton Dunbar to a concussion and special teams contributor Houston Bates to a left knee sprain. They were already without linebackers Will Compton because of a knee injury and Su'a Cravens because of an upper-arm injury.

Resilient Titans proving they can overcome own mistakes

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—The resilient and increasingly confident Tennessee Titans are targeting the playoffs now rather than waiting for the future.

"We want to win the division," quarterback Marcus Mariota said. "We have an opportunity to do that. We are in the thick of it. We cannot look at the big picture. We have to focus on taking it one game at a time. Get our mind focused for Jacksonville. We will see where the cards fall and hopefully we will be where we want to be at the end of the year."

Yes, the Titans are setting their sights high considering they haven't made the postseason since 2008 and their last playoff victory came in January 2004.

Winning four of five can do that for a team, especially with a three-game winning streak that includes a 13-10 win over the defending Super Bowl champs in Denver and a fourth-quarter rally in the coldest game in franchise history to beat the Chiefs 19-17 in Kansas City.

The last two easily are the most impressive, not because of who Tennessee beat to improve to 8-6 and remain tied atop the AFC South with Houston. The Titans shook off Mariota's worst game as a pro to beat Denver and overcame three turnovers, a 14-point deficit after the first quarter and a failed 2-point conversion to win in Kansas City.

They also lost two defensive starters to injuries when cornerback Jason McCourty left early with a bruised chest and sprained shoulder before safety Da'Norris Searcy had a concussion.

Any of those mistakes would have crushed the Titans' thoughts of a comeback in previous seasons.

"We're learning a lot about ourselves, what we're capable of doing, what we can and cannot do," Titans coach Mike Mularkey said Monday with his players given the day off. "That's going to be a weekly thing for this team until we get where we want to go."

Against the Chiefs, the Titans fell behind by double digits for the fifth time on the road this season.

They won for only the second time in that situation thanks to a defense with five rookies on the field after those injuries. The Titans had a goal-line stand at their own 1 in the second quarter, held the Chiefs to a field goal after reaching the Titans 16 late in the quarter and got the ball back with rookie cornerback LeShaun Sims' interception in the end zone in the third.

Mariota shook off a fumble and an interception in driving

Jaguars have interest in bringing back Tom Coughlin

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—The Jacksonville Jaguars are looking to their past to potentially find their future head coach.

General manager Dave Caldwell said Monday that former New York Giants Tom Coughlin "would be somebody we'd be interested in talking to" about the team's coaching vacancy.

The Jaguars (2-12) fired Gus Bradley after the franchise's ninth consecutive loss Sunday. Bradley went 14-48 in four seasons in Jacksonville, the worst winning percentage (.225) of any NFL coach with at least 60 games.

The 70-year-old Coughlin was Jacksonville's first head coach, leading the Jaguars to a 68-60 record in eight seasons (1995-2002). Coughlin resigned last January after 12 seasons with the Giants, but has made it clear he wants to return to the NFL. He is currently serving as a senior adviser to the league's football operations department.

Caldwell could give him a shot at getting back on the sidelines.

"Tom's a great man and a great person, and we'll see where it goes," Caldwell said. "There will be a lot of guys we're interested in talking to."

Coughlin won two Super Bowls with the Giants and led them to the playoffs in four consecutive seasons (2005-08).

"He's got so much experience on myself or on any coach that we have in this building and he's a great individual, so I think you can always learn from people," Caldwell said. "There's always a place for knowledge."

Caldwell said head coaching experience "would be helpful" for Bradley's successor. But he didn't rule out hiring someone without any.

"I don't want to avoid a candidate if he doesn't have it because you can be overlooking a great future head coach," Caldwell said. "Experience is critical, even with our players. Our players are young, but they may lack experience in certain areas and I think experience is invaluable."

Caldwell picked offensive line coach Doug Marrone as the team's interim coach for the final two games. Marrone went 15-17 in two seasons (2013-14) as Buffalo's head coach.

Marrone won't make any major changes when he holds his first team meeting Tuesday. He's even sticking with quarterback Blake Bortles, who was the main reason for Jacksonville's offensive struggles this season.

Caldwell remains committed to and confident in Bortles, but said he won't mandate that the new coach be dedicated to keeping Bortles under center. Bortles is tied for second in the NFL with 20 turnovers, and his sloppy mechanics have caused inaccuracy and inconsistency all season. He also has been playing through a shoulder injury.

"I always feel it's the coach's responsibility to play who he feels like gives us the best chance to win, with anybody," Caldwell said. "I still believe Blake gives us the best chance to win on Sundays. I know he's fighting through a lot of different things from a health standpoint."

Caldwell declined to name any other coaching candidates aside from Coughlin and Marrone.

Former San Francisco 49ers coach and current Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh, Detroit Lions defensive coordinator Teryl Austin, Dallas Cowboys offensive coordinator Scott Linehan, Atlanta Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan and Pittsburgh Steelers offensive coordinator Todd Haley should get consideration, too.

Caldwell acknowledged that part of the reason Khan fired Bradley with two games remaining was to get a jump on the coaching search, especially after the Los Angeles Rams parted ways with Jeff Fisher last week.

Khan and Caldwell discussed potential scenarios at the owners meetings in Dallas and decided later in the week to fire Bradley following Sunday's game at Houston, win or lose.

"There are some dynamics that when the ball started rolling that we didn't want to be left behind," Caldwell said.

Bradley met with local media for more than 35 minutes Monday. He held court inside a conference room at the Sawgrass Marriott in nearby Ponte Vedra Beach, going into detail about his professional shortcomings.

He expressed no hard feelings toward the franchise and got emotional near the end of the session. He sat in complete silence for 15 seconds when asked his one regret from a four-year failure.

"I'd just like to be here with this team when it's successful," Bradley said. "The regret I have is not seeing these players (win). When you go through something that's hard and then you come through it and you have success and you say, 'That's why we do it. Look at where it took you.' ...

"I regret (that) because I do believe that's going to happen. I regret not being here to see that."

Hell of the Marianas gets international coverage

This month's Hell of the Marianas century cycle crowned another international winner—John Paul Morales of the Philippines—while also drawing attention to the Northern Mariana Islands through international media coverage, a primary goal of the Marianas Visitors Authority in organizing the annual signature event.

Morales finished the men's division of the 100K road race in 3:04:51, followed by Japan's Makoto Morimoto (3:05:33) and the Philippines' Mark John Caledo (3:06:18). In the women's division of the road bike race, Guam took the first two places with Mieko Carey (3:33:29) and Manami Ijima (3:49:15), while Chika Fujimoto of Japan (3:56:31) rounded out the Top 3.

In the mountain bike race, all winners in the male division hailed from Saipan: Nap Dizon (3:53:52), Charlie Sendin (4:02:30), and Mark Isip (04:06:02). In the female Division, it was Kimberlyn Hinds (5:02:45) of Tinian, Glorybel Tan (5:27:52) of Saipan, and Felicia Reynolds (5:34:39) of Saipan. And finally, in the relay race, Matias/Remillosa of Tinian finished first (3:53:38), followed by 2-Go (4:08:36) and Taro Sue (4:21:12), both of Saipan.

Competitors this year also hailed from Russia, Korea, and Taiwan, with 38 of the pack of 194 cyclists coming from off-island to compete. Meanwhile, media from Japan, China, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Russia covered the event, which boasts spectacular views along Saipan's coastline and through the islands' interior.

"The Hell of the Marianas was a strong success again this year, with great weather and everyone finishing safely," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We are happy to have welcomed a number of athletes from off-island, including the winners. At the same time, we will be looking closely at the return on investment for the event, to ensure our international exposure is worth the monetary investment being made by the MVA to host the event."

Five media outlets from China sent representatives to cover the event: fastest-developing sports platform LeSports and LeTV Sports; Fujian province popular newspaper *Southeast Morning Post*; leading local cycling brand Dahon stores, webpage, and WeChat; leading biking platform Biketo website, Wechat and APP; and *Tourism World* weekly magazine targeting social elites. The resulting media exposure in China is nearly $200,000.

Joining the tour was the four-member Action Cycling Team from Hainan University and two representatives from Giant Bicycles Hainan office. The media tour also visited Christmas in the Marianas, Managaha, 360 Revolving Restaurant, International Shooting Rangein Dan Dan, Best Sunshine yacht, and Amigos restaurant.

Japan's online magazines FUNRide.jp andCycloWired.jp will feature the event and an interview with pro rider Morimoto on Jan. 1 and Jan. 5, respectively, along with travel information about tourist attractions and hotels in Saipan. The magazines target bikers in their 20s to 50s who are also interested in overseas sports. The coverage will bring the Northern Marianas nearly $30,000 in combined ad exposure value. In addition to covering the race, the magazines visited Joeten Hafadai Shopping Center, Saipan Bike Pro Shop, and Bubba Gump Shrimp Restaurant.

Taiwanese female bikers Yin-Han Su (Summer) and Wen-Chun Hsu (Celine) joined the event. The two bikers are also popular sports tourism bloggers with over 30,000 fans on Facebook. Taiwan's EBC TV News featured the two bikers, and *Travel Rich* magazine also covered the event.

The MVA recognized a number of sponsors and supporters of the event. Platinum sponsors were Philippine Airlines, Mariana Resort & Spa, DFS Saipan, Triple J Co, Gatorade, and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation. Gold Sponsors were Island Training Solutions, Gold's Gym, IT&E, and Hyatt Regency Saipan. The lone Silver Sponsor was Power 99. Bronze Sponsors were Bridge Capital LLC, Taro Sue, Saipan Bike Pro, Let's Go, Mango Resort, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan. The event was also supported by the Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Division of Parks and Recreation, Department of Public Works, Department of Public Lands, Hawaiian Rock, and GPPC. ***(PR)***

MVA's Marianas Sunset Fun Run on Jan. 20

To mark the end of the year-long celebration of its 40th anniversary, the Marianas Visitors Authority is inviting tourism partners of all sectors and ages—including the general public—to join its Marianas Sunset Fun Run on Jan. 20 along the Saipan Beach Pathway.

"Beginning with the MVA's anniversary proclamation signing by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in February 2016, we've had a number of events throughout the year, highlighted by having the winning float in this year's Liberation Day parade," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "What better way to end the anniversary than by coming together for a friendly run on the Saipan Beach Pathway that we helped relight this year and by giving back to the community at the same time."

Proceeds of the event will benefit the Dog Control Program of the Saipan Mayor's Office, which helps control the stray dog population. The run will begin at 6pm at Garapan Fishing Base, with the turnaround point at the Japanese tank at Quartermaster Road. Registration for the Marianas Sunset Run is $5 and will begin at 5pm. Cash and company checks are welcomed, and checks should be made payable to the Marianas Visitors Authority. Early registration at the Marianas Visitors Authority before event day will also be opened and announced shortly.

"Tourism is everybody's business, and we're pleased to be donating our proceeds to the Office of the Mayor, which is working to make our islands a better place for residents, visitors, and animals. In the past, tourists have registered concerns about their safety around dangerous, unleashed dogs, so the work done by the Dog Control Program and other similar organizations is important for tourism," said Concepcion. "Four-legged friends on leashes are also welcomed at the run."

T-shirts provided by the MVA and TanHoldings Corp. will be distributed to registrants while supplies last. Taste of the Marianas tokens will be given to the first five male and first five female finishers. The first 40 registrants under 18 will receive a Saipan-da backpack.

For more information, contact MVA Community Projects Specialist Ed Diaz at ediaz@mymarianas.com or 664-3200/01. ***(PR)***

FMS

From Page 28

box scores for Dandan.

In the girls division, FMS held Hopwood 4 without a basket in the first half and survived the latter's rally in the second to pull off the 3-point win.

Mikkilyn Higgins topscored for Hopwood with her 6 markers, while Ramona Cabrera, Claire Barrozo, Agatha Borja, and Judy Andebos contributed 2 points each.

Hopwood 4, which nailed its first basket midway in the third off Marlie Teregeyo's bucket, was led by the 4 points of Loralye Ogumoro. Helenor Ogumoro, Hevani Rasing, and Sha Ana Mendoza were the other scores for Hopwood 4.

Girls Finals

FMS 15— Higgins 6, Cabrera 2, Borja 2, Barrozo 2, Andebos 2.

Hopwood 4 12 — L. Ogumoro 4, Rasiang 2, Teregeyo 2, H. Ogumoro 2, Mendoza 2.

Scoring by quarters: 4-0, 8-0, 11-5, 15-12.

Boys Finals

Hopwood 5 26 — Pelisamen 10, Pablo 6, Toves 2, Tagabuel 2, Viana 2, Eugenio 2, Montes 2.

Dandan 18 — Hocog 7, Borja 4, Serrano 4, Sablan 2, Qutigua 1.

GSM

From Page 28

Rubak.

The GSM Masters hit 18-for-49 at the plate for a .367 batting average. They were behind, 8-10, after four complete innings, but grabbed the lead at the top of the fifth after registering eight runs. Rubak countered with only one run at the bottom fifth to face an 11-16 deficit.

Rubak failed to recover after being shut down in the sixth and drilling only two runs in the last inning. Rubak had a runner stranded at third base when it was called for the third and final out at the bottom of the seventh with Tony Rogolifoi heading back to the bench off a 4-3 putout play.

In last Wednesday's game, the Old Stars rallied past Papa Bears after hitting their targets in the last three innings.

The Old Stars were down 5-9, after three and a half innings but fought back and stole the win after tallying six runs each in the fourth and fifth inning and adding three at the bottom of the sixth. Jess Mesa had a two-run single in the fourth and made an RBI single in fifth. The Old Stars had eight earned runs in the fourth and fifth inning.

Mesa went on to finish with four RBIs and contributed three runs off his 3-for-4 performance at the plate. Jun Pangelinan logged three RBIs and hit 3-for-4. Randall Aguon was on 2-for-4 at the plate, but recorded three runs and two RBIs.

WSR

From Page 28

WPS/BSS before Frink found her target to give the team the advantage. Irin and Serin Chung and Cassie Reagan were the last three shooters for WPS/BSS, which also had Frink as its goalkeeper in the shootout.

Christina Amaro was the goalie for WSR, while Relucio was the fourth shooter on the team and hit the go-ahead when her ball rolled in to the left corner of the goal. Nicole Carag attempted last for the eventual champions.

With the title, WSR has earned the most girls championships in the IFL with its three crowns. The Kingfishers topped the inaugural contest in 2008 and got their second division title in 2014. Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, which finished third this season, has two championships (2010 and 2012), while Dandan, Oleai, WPS, and Hopwood 2 have one each after winning in 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2015, respectively.

The Kingfishers have three coaches for this season—Melissa Dickinson, Erika Dela Rosa, and Kathy Mersai. The team also had Vianca Mangulabnan, Kaylee Pinaula, Narhya Mersai, and Tricia Rabago as members.

"The girls showed tremendous teamwork all throughout the season," said Dickinson, whose squad were unbeaten in five games in the regular season and advanced to the finals after shutting down GTC in the semis, 3-0.

"They worked together and had confidence in each other," Mersai added.

Dela Rosa, on the other hand, commended the Kingfishers for hanging tough in the extended finale.

"They were very tired, but they kept pushing themselves," Dela Rosa said.

Meanwhile, Amaro took the Golden Glove award in the girls division, while Raymond Guanlao, also from WSR, got the same recognition in the boys contest. In the Golden Boot race, WPS/BSS' Dylan Mister claimed the top honors in the boys' field, while Aniana prevailed in the girls division.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	19	8	.704	—
Boston	15	12	.556	4
New York	14	13	.519	5
Brooklyn	7	19	.269	11½
Philadelphia	7	20	.259	12

Southeast Division

Charlotte	15	13	.536	—
Atlanta	14	14	.500	1
Washington	12	15	.444	2½
Orlando	12	17	.414	3½
Miami	9	19	.321	6

Central Division

Cleveland	19	6	.760	—
Milwaukee	13	12	.520	6
Chicago	14	13	.519	6
Indiana	15	14	.517	6
Detroit	14	16	.467	7½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	22	5	.815	—
Houston	21	7	.750	1½
Memphis	18	11	.621	5
New Orleans	9	20	.310	14
Dallas	7	21	.250	15½

Northwest Division

Utah	18	10	.643	—
Oklahoma City	16	12	.571	2
Portland	13	16	.448	5½
Denver	12	16	.429	6
Minnesota	8	19	.296	9½

Pacific Division

Golden State	24	4	.857	—
L.A. Clippers	20	8	.714	4
Sacramento	10	17	.370	13½
L.A. Lakers	11	19	.367	14
Phoenix	8	20	.286	16

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	12	2	0	.857	365	233
Miami	9	5	0	.643	315	314
Buffalo	7	7	0	.500	358	314
N.Y. Jets	4	10	0	.286	242	358

South

Houston	8	6	0	.571	250	294
Tennessee	8	6	0	.571	340	323
Indianapolis	7	7	0	.500	362	339
Jacksonville	2	12	0	.143	260	359

North

Pittsburgh	9	5	0	.643	341	276
Baltimore	8	6	0	.571	306	263
Cincinnati	5	8	1	.393	288	293
Cleveland	0	14	0	.000	220	408

West

x-Oakland	11	3	0	.786	377	336
Kansas City	10	4	0	.714	319	274
Denver	8	6	0	.571	299	258
San Diego	5	9	0	.357	366	366

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Dallas	12	2	0	.857	366	258
N.Y. Giants	10	4	0	.714	272	250
Washington	7	6	1	.536	345	343
Philadelphia	5	9	0	.357	316	299

South

Atlanta	9	5	0	.643	469	358
Tampa Bay	8	6	0	.571	313	322
New Orleans	6	8	0	.429	406	392
Carolina	6	8	0	.429	337	352

North

Detroit	9	5	0	.643	301	285
Green Bay	8	6	0	.571	363	339
Minnesota	7	7	0	.500	264	259
Chicago	3	11	0	.214	248	320

West

y-Seattle	9	4	1	.679	298	235
Arizona	5	8	1	.393	340	325
Los Angeles	4	10	0	.286	197	328
San Francisco	1	13	0	.071	264	434

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COPSSA Volleyball League Boys High School Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Mt. Carmel School player bumps the ball, while his teammates look on during their title game against Marianas Baptist Academy in the boys high school division of the 2016-2017 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

A Marianas Baptist Academy player digs the ball.

Mt. Carmel School's Seok Jun Yun uses his fingers to push the ball.

A Marianas Baptist Academy tosses the ball up.

Two Mt. Carmel School players receive the serve from Marianas Baptist Academy.

Three Mt. Carmel School players go to the net to block a shot from a Marianas Baptist Academy player.

Marianas Baptist Academy's Junsik Kim is about to bump the ball, while his teammates stay close to the play.

A Mt. Carmel School tosses the ball to set up a teammate.

Bulls break out of slump for 113-82 rout of Pistons

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Redskins lose control of playoff hopes with loss to Panthers

PAGE 25

WSR gets third girls title in IFL

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

William S. Reyes Elementary School outgunned Whispering Palms School/Brilliant Star School in the penalty shootout, 2-1, to rule the girls division of the 2016 NMIFA U11 Interscholastic Football League last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
William S. Reyes Elementary School players and coaches pose with their championship trophy after beating Whispering Palms School/Brilliant Star School in the penalty shootout, 2-1, in the girls finals of the 2016 NMIFA U11 Interscholastic Football League last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Mary Joy Aniana and Rizza Relucio were on target in the shootout to finally give the victory to WSR after playing for more than an hour. Erin Frink made the lone goal for WPS/BSS in the shootout, which was scheduled after neither team scored in the one-hour regulation and 10-minute overtime.

Aniana put WSR on the board after the first two shooters—Julie Anne Capayas and Sophia Quintos—missed their marks. River Kramer also failed to convert when she first attempted for

See WSR on Page 26

GSM Masters, Old Stars prevail

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The GSM Masters and Old Stars downed their respective opponents in the 2016 Masters Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

The GSM Masters topped Rubak last Monday, 20-13, while the Old Stars defeated Papa Bears in similar scores last Wednesday.

Walter Macaranas, Mark Flores, and Juan Diaz had two RBIs apiece to lift the GSM Masters to their fourth win in six games. Jack Diaz and Tom Diaz chipped one RBI each. Flores added three runs off his 3-for-6 performance at the plate, while Tom Diaz also contributed three runs. Ben Hocog was only 2-for-4 at bat, but led the GSM Masters in runs with his four, while Zack Igisomar was the third GSM Masters player to make three runs against

See GSM on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Rubak's Tony Rogolifoi gets ready to throw the ball to home plate during an earlier game against the Papa Bears in the masters league at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

FMS, Hopwood 5 top 6th grade caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School and Hopwood Junior High School 5 clinched the championships in their respective divisions in the 2016 Wellness Through Basketball Tournament.

In the girls 6th grade finals last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, FMS edged Hopwood 4, 15-12, while in the boys division title game, Hopwood avoided a shutout after beating Dandan Middle School, 26-18.

Freddy Pelisamen towed Hopwood 5 to the division win after scoring 10 points in the finale. He was the lone player in the entire field to break into double figures. Daniel Pablo backed him up, adding 6 markers, while Anselmo Toves, Edison Viana, Frankie Tagabuel, Dyrel Eugenio, and Alden Montes also hit the board for Hopwood 5.

The scores in each quarter were not recorded during the boys finale, but Hopwood was in control of the match right from the get-go and were never threatened, thanks to Pelisamen's good offensive game.

Alvin Hocog led Dandan's losing cause, logging 7 points, while Alden Borja and Kelani Serrano chipped in 4 apiece. Two more players graced the

See FMS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School player is hounded by two Hopwood Junior High School 4 defenders in their title game in the girls division of the 2016 Wellness Through Basketball Tournament last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.